

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING

----- X

May 29, 2014  
Start: 1:35 p.m.  
End: 3:36 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E: MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO  
Speaker

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  
JULISSA FERRERAS  
DANIEL R. GARODNICK  
VINCENTJ. 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]

MS. JAMES, PUBLIC ADVOCATE

1           SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I think we're going to  
2 get started...

3           [background noise/talking][interruption]

4           [unidentified speaker]: ...Please. Quite.

5                       SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO:        Thank you.  
6 We have two proclamations that we will be issuing  
7 today. Want to ask my colleagues, Council Member,  
8 Cornegy and Council Member, Rosenthal, who are  
9 going to take the lead on this portion. We are  
10 celebrating worker cooperatives, here in New York  
11 City, very excited, uh, from this Council. And,  
12 they will have a little more information that they  
13 will share and invite those that are being honored  
14 to come up on the floor with us. Council Member,  
15 Cornegy.

16                      CORNEGY:        Thank you, Madam Speaker.  
17 Good afternoon. My name is Robert Cornegy, and I  
18 am here with my colleague, Helen Rosenthal. And,  
19 as the Chair of the City Council's Committee on  
20 Small Business, I am pleased today to recognize  
21 several non-profit organizations whose aim is to  
22 create new worker cooperative small businesses.  
23 On behalf of Council Member, Maria Del Carmen

1 Arroyo, who arranged for these organizations to be  
2 honored, and could not be with us today, I would  
3 now, like to call up these five non-profit  
4 organizations from across the City. We are  
5 pleased to have with us...

6 SPEAKER MARK VIVERITO: Omar

7 Fiaf[sp?][**phonetic**]00:01:57 from Green Worker  
8 Cooperatives; [applause] Scott Wong from the  
9 Working World; [applause] Julie Jean-Francois from  
10 the Center for Family Life; Fadouf[sp?]Seyoul[sp?]  
11 from Make the Road; and Jennifer Wells from the  
12 Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation.

13 CORNEGY: Before we present the  
14 proclamations, I'd like to say a few words about  
15 why we're recognizing non-profit organizations  
16 that develop worker cooperative businesses.

17 Worker cooperatives are business owned and  
18 managed democratically by the employees. The two  
19 hundred and twenty three worker cooperative  
20 businesses in the U.S. own more than \$128 million  
21 in assets, generate more than \$219 million in  
22 revenue and more than \$55 million in wages and  
23 account for more than 2,300 jobs. In my own

1 council district in Brooklyn, I've recently  
2 learned that I have three worker cooperative  
3 businesses; Norberts[sic] Express, a pizzeria,  
4 Radics[sic] Media, a paper company, and a  
5 bookkeeping cooperative, a bookkeeping and  
6 accounting businesses. Worker cooperatives have  
7 proven to be a natural vehicle for lifting workers  
8 out of poverty. The last dozen years have seen  
9 the City grapple with persistent economic barriers  
10 that have trapped more than one out five New  
11 Yorkers in poverty. Today, many jobs that once  
12 could support a family, barely suffice to keep  
13 that family out of poverty. With more and more  
14 families not having enough money to make ends  
15 meet, we are witnessing the negative impacts of  
16 economic inequality on our communities. It is  
17 simply, no longer a guarantee that anyone who  
18 works hard and plays by the rules can support his  
19 or her family and move onward and upward. Jobs  
20 that pay a living wage, are one of the best  
21 methods of reducing poverty. The example of low  
22 wage workers in New York City who have formed  
23 worker cooperatives and have seen their hourly

1 wages nearly triple within just a few years. We  
2 are here today, to recognize some non-profit  
3 organizations that have been working for numerous  
4 years to support and encourage the creation of  
5 worker cooperatives. Small businesses that  
6 provide high wages and benefits along with  
7 promoting a sense of ownership. And, to describe  
8 those, is my colleague, Helen Rosenthal.

9 ROSENTHAL: Why, thank you so much,  
10 Council Member, Cornegy. I want each  
11 organization, as I call you out, to come up and  
12 get your picture taken and featured with, uh, the  
13 tall man and the Speaker... [laughs] First, and I  
14 just want to say, before I announce each of their  
15 names, and thank them; For everyone here today,  
16 you're looking at the future economy of New York  
17 City. If there is one single, most important  
18 thing that we can do as a City to get us back on  
19 the road to recovery, it's to support our worker  
20 cooperatives. And, that's why I am so proud to be  
21 standing up here today, with the Speaker, with  
22 Council Member, Cornegy and to thank very much,  
23 Council Member, Maria Carmen Del Arroyo, for her

1 leadership on this issue. So, first, the Working  
2 World, if you could come up and, stand next to the  
3 Speaker. The Working World is a non-profit that  
4 has been working in the Rockaways Queens to lend  
5 people the tools they need to build lasting wealth  
6 for themselves, their businesses, and their  
7 communities, by providing investment capital and  
8 technical support to worker cooperatives. Thank  
9 you. [applause]

10 The Center for Family Life. The Center  
11 for Family Life has emerged as a leader in the  
12 development of worker cooperative businesses in  
13 low income urban communities, such as, their own  
14 low income, predominantly immigrant Sun Set Park  
15 Community. [applause] Thank you very much, and  
16 congratulations.

17 Green Worker Cooperatives. [applause]  
18 Woo Hoo! All of the child's[sic] involved... two of  
19 them... [background noise/talking]...three, alright,  
20 that's... [laughs]

21 [background noise/talking]

22 Green Worker Cooperatives is a Bronx based  
23 organization dedicated to incubating worker owned



1 green businesses that build a strong local  
2 economy, rooted in democracy and environmental  
3 justice. Here's to the future of our New York  
4 City. [applause] Thank you very much. And, you  
5 all got them to be asleep at the same time; that's  
6 impressive.

7           Make the Road New York. [applause] Make  
8 the Road. Make the Road has sought to build the  
9 power of Latino and working class communities in  
10 Jackson Heights, Queens to achieve dignity and  
11 justice through entrepreneurship and the  
12 development of worker cooperatives, an innovative  
13 method to help sustain and strengthen immigrant  
14 communities. [applause] That's the Make the  
15 Road.

16           Northern Manhattan Improvement  
17 Corporation. [applause] Yes. Serving low income  
18 residents in the communities of upper Manhattan,  
19 the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation has  
20 sought to develop a worker owned business among  
21 its clients who are having difficulty finding  
22 stable employment in this depressed economy,  
23 particularly, women participating in our support

1 group, for survivors of domestic violence.

2 [applause] Congratulations. Congratulations.

3 And, Lastly, Speaker, actually would you  
4 like to have the honor of this last piece to call  
5 up Jennifer Jones?

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Of course. And,  
7 I would like to call up Jennifer Jones-  
8 Austen[sp?]**00:08:11** from the Federation of  
9 Protestant Welfare Agencies, who has been leading  
10 a coalition of organizations to support the  
11 development of worker cooperative businesses in  
12 New York City, to say a few words on behalf of all  
13 the organizations that are being honored today.  
14 And, then, we will have the Clerk... um, actually,  
15 let's have the Clerk read the Proclamation first,  
16 which, I think, is language that is suitable for  
17 all. And, then, we can have Ms. Jones-Austen say  
18 a few words.

19 CLERK: Council City of New York  
20 Proclamation. Whereas, in a recent hearing of the  
21 City Council's Community Development Committee,  
22 worker cooperatives were identified as having the  
23 potential to move our City forward to greater

1 economic recovery and job growth. In doing so,  
2 they helped raise New Yorkers out of poverty, and  
3 reduce inequity throughout the five boroughs.  
4 Despite their effectiveness, many people are  
5 unaware that such a business model exists. And,  
6 whereas, worker cooperatives are business entities  
7 that are owned and controlled by their members, the  
8 people who work in them. The two core  
9 characteristics of worker cooperatives are: 1.  
10 Worker members invest in and own the business  
11 together, and it distributes surplus to them, and  
12 2. Decision making is democratic, adhering to the  
13 general principle of one member, one vote. Such  
14 organizations may have their own distinct mission,  
15 but all recognize the importance of self-help,  
16 self-responsibility, equality, equity, solidarity,  
17 openness and social responsibility. Because they  
18 focus on meeting the needs of their member owners,  
19 worker cooperatives have fared better during the  
20 recession than many for-profit businesses. They  
21 have grown as people... they have grown as people to  
22 take charge of their own economic situation.

23 And, whereas, the Center for Family

1 Life is a program of SCEO family of services and an  
2 outstanding worker cooperative that promotes  
3 positive outcomes for children, adults and families  
4 in Sun Set Park by providing a comprehensive range  
5 of neighborhood based family and social services.

6           Green Worker Cooperatives is a South  
7 Bronx based organization dedicated to incubating  
8 worker owned, green businesses in order to build a  
9 strong, local economy, rooted in democracy and  
10 environmental justice.

11           Make the Road New York, more than  
12 14,000 members strong, builds the power of Latino  
13 and working class communities to achieve dignity  
14 and justice through organizing policy innovation,  
15 transformative education, and survival services.  
16 Thanks for the tenacity and vision of more than  
17 14,000 members. Make the Road New York is a  
18 robust, multi-service powerhouse that works with  
19 tens of thousands of New York City and Long Island  
20 residents each year.

21           Since the Northern Manhattan  
22 Improvement Corporation was founded in 1979, it has  
23 worked tirelessly to empower the poorest residents

1 of Washington Heights and Inwood[sic]00:10:45, by  
2 promoting economic, self-sufficiency through adult  
3 education and workforce development, and by  
4 stabilizing families through social services,  
5 health education, and domestic violence  
6 intervention.

7           The Center for Family Life is a  
8 program... [mumbling] Did I say that one already?  
9 ...is a program of SCEO family of services and of  
10 outstanding worker cooperative that promotes  
11 positive outcomes for children, adults and families  
12 in Sun Set Park by providing a comprehensive range  
13 of neighborhood based family and social services.

14           And, The Working World is a community  
15 development fund with offices in Buenos Ares,  
16 Nicaragua, and New York City, which designs  
17 investments to create and grow and cooperative  
18 enterprises in marginalized neighborhoods. Since  
19 it opened in New York in 2011, the Working World  
20 has had a remarkable impact through numerous  
21 projects, including the New Era Windows, Si se  
22 pwedai[phonetic][Speaking Spanish], Third Root  
23 Community Health Center, and

1 others. Now, therefore, be it known, that the  
2 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors  
3 the Center for Family Life, The Working World,  
4 Green Cooperatives, Make the Road New York, and the  
5 Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, for  
6 supporting worker cooperatives in New York City.  
7 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the entire  
8 Council; Maria Del Carmen Arroyo, Council Member  
9 17<sup>th</sup> District, the Bronx; Robert E. Corngnegy, Jr.,  
10 Council Member 36<sup>th</sup> District, Brooklyn; Daniel R.  
11 Garodnick, Council Member 4<sup>th</sup> District, Manhattan;  
12 Helen Rosenthal, Council Member 6<sup>th</sup> District,  
13 Manhattan; Carlos Manchaca, Council Member 38<sup>th</sup>  
14 District, Brooklyn; Daniel Dromm, Council Member  
15 25<sup>th</sup> District, Queens; Council Member, Ritchie  
16 Torres, 15<sup>th</sup> District, the Bronx; Council Member,  
17 Ydanis Rodriguez, 10<sup>th</sup> District, Manhattan; and  
18 Council Member, Donovan Richards, 31<sup>st</sup> District,  
19 Queens.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you.  
21 And, I just want to thank all the Council Members  
22 who are here also. These cooperatives are located  
23 throughout the City of New York. We have the

1 Council Members, Ritchie Torres, who represents the  
2 Green Worker Cooperatives; Donovan Richards, The  
3 Working World; Manchaca with the Center for Family  
4 Life; Council Dromm, Make the Road New York; and  
5 Ydanis Rodriguez with Northern Manhattan  
6 Improvement Corporation. This is really exciting  
7 day. I am literally grinning ear to ear, because  
8 when you talk about self-empowerment and community  
9 empowerment, when you talk about worker  
10 cooperatives, that really is what it means. And,  
11 it's really great to see it growing throughout the  
12 City of New York. Thank you to these organizations  
13 that are really spreading the good word and working  
14 with members of our community. And, I'd love to  
15 have Ms. Jones-Austen say a few words.

16 JONES-AUSTEN: Thank you. Thank you,  
17 Speaker. Thank you, Speaker, thank you, Council  
18 Member, Robert Cornegy, and Council Member  
19 Rosenthal, and all of the Council Members who  
20 supported this effort, Council Member, Arroyo, of  
21 course. This is, for me, a tremendous day. On  
22 many occasions I've stood in this very Chambers  
23 and, I am going to be honest, and, please, hope I

1 do not offend anyone when I say that, this is the  
2 most beautiful display that I have ever seen of New  
3 York at its best. [applause]  
4 Everywhere you look, you see community, and see  
5 community being empowered, to take their lives into  
6 their own hands and to make better lives for  
7 themselves and for their children, and for their  
8 children's children. And, the Council, today,  
9 proclaiming these cooperatives as tremendous values  
10 as to this City. It's a true testament to your  
11 leadership and your support of what we're aiming to  
12 do here. FPWA is working with this coalition of  
13 nineteen worker cooperatives to make sure that  
14 they're not just nineteen, in the next year, and in  
15 the years to come, but that other individuals and  
16 families, communities across the City will benefit  
17 from the strength of these worker cooperatives.  
18 So, I just want to say thank you to the Council, to  
19 you all, your leadership, for making this day  
20 possible, and what will come. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
22 Council Members, and thank you all. [background  
23 noise/talking] We would like to make way for



1 the next proclamation. I'd like to ask Council  
2 Member, Eugene... thank you all again. Um, Council  
3 Member, Eugene has a very, very important and  
4 powerful presentation to make. Those colleagues  
5 that are on the floor, I would ask that... if you  
6 could please, join us so that we could give support  
7 to Council Member, Eugene and as he honors **Gamma**  
8 **Droyvil[sic][sp?]**00:15:28 Thirteen year old boy.  
9 Um, who was a victim of a shooting in Flatbush  
10 Avenue on April 14<sup>th</sup>. He was shot twice in the  
11 head, with a bullet entering his eye, and  
12 miraculously, he survived. Anyone who has read the  
13 stories, or even been in the presence of this young  
14 man, knows his courage, in a moment of adversity.  
15 And, Council Member, Eugene I'd love you to say a  
16 few words.

17 EUGENE: Thank you very much, Madam  
18 Speaker. Thank you so much. Today, we are to  
19 commend the bravery and courage of this young,  
20 brave man. Gamma Droyvil, thirteen years old, who,  
21 nearly lost his life to gun violence. You know,  
22 like many other victim, he was at the corner of  
23 Beverly Road and Flatbush Avenue, with aunt,

1 waiting for bus. He didn't do anything wrong. But  
2 the only thing, he was there, at the wrong time, in  
3 the wrong place. And, suddenly, he was shot. The  
4 bullet reach his right eye. But, by the grace of  
5 God, and for many... for several days under the care  
6 of outstanding doctors and nurses, and medical  
7 professionals at Kings County Hospital. He made a  
8 speedy recovery. And, we are so happy, so blessed  
9 to have Gamma with us today. And, I had the  
10 opportunity, the privilege to go to visit Gamma  
11 several times, and to speak with him and the  
12 family. But, what I got from the conversation, was  
13 inspiration. Inspiration for all the young people  
14 in New York City. Inspiration for the new  
15 generations. Gamma doesn't wish any harm for no  
16 one. He said that he forgives the shooter. And,  
17 he's asking the young people in New York to  
18 practice non-violence. Non-violence and peace.  
19 Gamma is a hero. Whenever you see that a young  
20 boy, born in Haiti, came over here, like many of  
21 us, with the hope to have the opportunity.  
22 Opportunity to have an education, to be somebody  
23 tomorrow. And, he was close to lose his life.

1 But, I know many of us in New York City and the  
2 government, we are doing so much, a lot of effort,  
3 but we got to do more for our young people. We  
4 have to do more for our young people. The shooter  
5 was twenty one years or two. And, after the  
6 shooting, on Flatbush and Church Avenue, but we  
7 have many other shooting after this one. But we  
8 got to do more as a City, as a society. And, I as  
9 the new Chairman of the Youth Committee, I'm asking  
10 all of you, all my colleagues from the City  
11 Council, and all my colleagues from government, the  
12 City of New York, as a society, we have to come  
13 together and to make sure not only we protect our  
14 young people, but give them also the opportunity  
15 that they need to become positive, important  
16 citizens. We got to take the guns from them and  
17 give them the tools to succeed in life. We can do  
18 it. The good City of New York, we can do it. We  
19 should not wait when they are twenty or twenty five  
20 years old. We got to start in the family when they  
21 are very young. And, I do believe if we do that,  
22 we won't have more violence in the community, and  
23 it will cost cheaper also. Today, I am so pleased

1 to have the privilege to present Gamma with a  
2 proclamation from the good City of New York. And,  
3 I want to thank the Speaker for your leadership,  
4 for your support. And, this is not the first time  
5 you see Gamma. I know you came to my district  
6 several times, and you saw Gamma. Thank you very  
7 much. And, to all my colleagues, and all of you  
8 here, thank you very much. And, to Gamma, and  
9 Gamma family, and I want to thank you for your  
10 faith and your courage. And, Gamma is a role model  
11 in his school. He is a very active member of... in  
12 the choir of his church. He believes in God. And,  
13 I can say, as a believer also, it was only by the  
14 grace of God, that Gamma is here with us.

15 [applause] And, on behalf of the entire City  
16 Council, and I'm going to present Gamma with this  
17 Proclamation for your courage. He is our hero.  
18 Gamma, thank you very much for inspiration.

19 Thank you. Will you, please read the  
20 Proclamation, the Clerk, please.

21 CLERK: Council City of New York  
22 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York  
23 is proud to honor Gamma Droyvil[sic] for his

1 inspiring courage and character. And, whereas,  
2 born in Porto Prince, Haiti, Gamma Droyvil is a  
3 hard working eighth grade student at I.S.285 Myer  
4 Levin School in Brooklyn. At the age of thirteen,  
5 Gamma has already had an enormous impact throughout  
6 our community and inspired people far beyond the  
7 five boroughs by demonstrating the same incredible  
8 resiliency that defines Haitian people everywhere.  
9 And, whereas, on April 14, 2014, shortly before  
10 noon, Gamma was standing with his aunt at the  
11 corner of Flatbush Avenue and Beverly Road in  
12 Flatbush, Brooklyn, simply doing what millions of  
13 people do every day, waiting for the bus. That  
14 day, this routine took a sharp turn when a stranger  
15 pulled out a gun and started shooting at another  
16 man. Gamma, an innocent bystander, was suddenly  
17 shot, one bullet striking near his right eye and he  
18 fell to the ground. And, whereas, Gamma  
19 miraculously survived this horrific event.  
20 Senseless violence, inflicted serious physical and  
21 psychological scars in our community. In the face  
22 of such outrageous gun violence, whether in Santa  
23 Barbara, California or Newtown, Connecticut, in

1 Brooklyn and beyond, we are all reminded that could  
2 have been any one of us, could have been shot as  
3 Gamma was, or that it could be any of us mourning  
4 the loss of our loved ones. And, whereas,  
5 fortunately, thanks to the expert nurses and  
6 doctors at Kings County Hospital, as well as the  
7 support and prayers of his community, Gamma was  
8 soon on the mend. Despite the chance that he may  
9 never see out of his right eye again, he has been  
10 sustained by spirit and faith. He recently said he  
11 plans to live a normal life and refuses to be  
12 afraid to be out of step or step onto the same East  
13 Flatbush Street where he was nearly killed. And,  
14 whereas, incredibly Gamma has forgiven his  
15 assailant and bounced back from this tragedy even  
16 stronger than before. He has always enjoyed  
17 singing in his church choir, and following this  
18 horrific incident, he refuses his silence his song.  
19 On May 15, 2014 he accepted the invitation to a  
20 baseball game between the Mets and the Yankees.  
21 The first baseball game he ever attended. He  
22 arrived at City field early because his invitation  
23 was to not only attend but to sing the National

1 Anthem accompanied by fellow choir members before  
2 thousands of fans. And, whereas, Gamma Droyvil is  
3 truly an inspiration to everyone, for he has  
4 inspired us with his heroism, and for his  
5 commitment to speaking out against gun violence in  
6 the years ahead. Now, therefore, be it known, that  
7 the Council of the City of New York proudly honors  
8 Gamma Droyvil for inspiring our entire community  
9 with his bravery. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker  
10 for the entire Council; Mathieu Eugene, Council  
11 Member, 40<sup>th</sup> District, Brooklyn. [applause]

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thanks. I,  
13 um, I want to thank Council Member, Eugene for his  
14 leadership, and he... you are a strong supporter of  
15 our youth and your commitment to this family and  
16 this young man is exemplary. And, Velma, as I said  
17 to you, I had met you at the Haitian Flag Day, and  
18 Council Member, Eugene's district, but you are an  
19 inspiration to all of us. And, you give us the  
20 strength to continue to fight for what is right.  
21 This Council is committed, so many colleagues here,  
22 to really fight the violence in our streets, to put  
23 the resources and make sure that we curb the

1 senseless violence that is happening. And, it is  
2 stories like yours that despite that adversity, you  
3 are inspiring others, and you have the strength to  
4 go on, is something that definitely serves and  
5 moves all of us. To the family, thank you for  
6 being with us, here today. You all know you have  
7 an unbelievable child. And, it is great that he is  
8 here with us, to inspire us. Gamma we would love  
9 for you to say a few words, if you wouldn't mind.

10 GAMMA: Just, thank you.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I don't know  
12 if one of the parents would want to say anything,  
13 but it's great that you could join us here.

14 EUGENE: Let me say that... very  
15 briefly. He did say thank you, but he's so shy,  
16 you didn't hear him.

17 GAMMA'S FATHER: We just want to  
18 say, thank you, on behalf of the family. And, you  
19 know, Gamma is shy. We also say thank you to  
20 Council Member, Eugene and Speaker, and everybody,  
21 every councilman in here. We honored to say thank  
22 you to you. And, we always, you know, look forward  
23 to work with you to fight against gun violence,



1 especially, Saturday. We are going to have.. Gamma  
2 has a good measure for fighting for gun violence.  
3 So, we want to say thank you again, and we look  
4 forward to be with you again. [applause]

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you  
6 very much. Thank you. [background talking][pause]

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And, that  
8 ends ceremonials.

9 [pause][announcement]: Could we have some quite in  
10 the Chambers, please. Quite in the Chambers.

11 Shhh. Ladies and gentlemen, at this time, please  
12 place all cell phones, all cell phones and  
13 electronic devices to vibrate. Will all, will all  
14 non-council employees, please leave the main floor  
15 of the Chambers. There is additional seating  
16 upstairs. Thank you. [gavel]

17 [unidentified male speaker]: All rise, for  
18 the pledge of allegiance. [pause]

19 Roll Call.

20 CLERK: Arroyo?

21 ARROYO:

22 CLERK: Barron?

23 BARRON: Present.

1 CLERK: Cabrera?  
2 CABRERA:  
3 CLERK: Chin?  
4 CHIN: Here.  
5 CLERK: Cohen?  
6 COHEN: Here.  
7 CLERK: Constantinides?  
8 CONTANTINIDES: Here.  
9 CLERK: Cornegy?  
10 CORNEGY: Present  
11 CLERK: Crowley?  
12 CROWLEY:  
13 CLERK: Cumbo?  
14 CUMBO: Here.  
15 CLERK: Deutsch?  
16 DEUTSCH: Here.  
17 CLERK: Dickens?  
18 DICKENS: Here.  
19 CLERK: Dromm?  
20 DROMM: Here.  
21 CLERK: Espinal?  
22 ESPINAL: Here.  
23 CLERK: Eugene?

1 EUGENE:  
2 CLERK: Ferreras?  
3 FERRERAS: Here.  
4 CLERK: Garodnick?  
5 GARODNICK: Here.  
6 CLERK: Gentile?  
7 GENTILE: Here.  
8 CLERK: Gibson?  
9 GIBSON: Here.  
10 CLERK: Greenfield?  
11 GREENFIELD: I am here.  
12 CLERK: Johnson?  
13 JOHNSON: Here.  
14 CLERK: Kallos?  
15 KALLOS: Here.  
16 CLERK: King?  
17 KING: Present  
18 CLERK: Koo?  
19 KOO: Present.  
20 CLERK: Koslowitz?  
21 KOSLOWITZ: Here.  
22 CLERK: Lancman?  
23 LANCMAN: Here.

1 CLERK: Lander?  
2 LANDER: Here.  
3 CLERK: Levin?  
4 LEVIN: Here.  
5 CLERK: Levine?  
6 LEVINE: Here.  
7 CLERK: Maisel?  
8 MAISEL: [pause]  
9 CLERK: Maisel?  
10 MAISEL: Here.  
11 CLERK: Thank you. Matteo?  
12 MATTEO: Here.  
13 CLERK: Mealy?  
14 MEALY:  
15 CLERK: Menchaca?  
16 MENCHACA: Present.  
17 CLERK: Mendez?  
18 MENDEZ: Here.  
19 CLERK: Miller?  
20 MILLER: Here.  
21 CLERK: Palma?  
22 PALMA: Here.  
23 CLERK: Reynoso?

1 REYNOSO: Here.

2 CLERK: Richards?

3 RICHARDS: Present.

4 CLERK: Rodriguez?

5 RODRIGUEZ: Here.

6 CLERK: Rose?

7 ROSE: Here.

8 CLERK: Rosenthal?

9 ROSENTHAL:

10 CLERK: Torres?

11 TORRES: Here.

12 CLERK: Treyger?

13 TREYGER: Here.

14 CLERK: Ulrich?

15 ULRICH: Present.

16 CLERK: Rosenthal?

17 ROSENTHAL: Here.

18 CLERK: Vacca?

19 VACCA: Here.

20 CLERK: Vallone?

21 VALLONE: Here.

22 CLERK: Weprin?

23 WEPRIN: Here.

1 CLERK: Williams?

2 WILLIAMS: Here.

3 CLERK: WILLS

4 WILLS: Here.

5 CLERK: Ignizio?

6 IGNIZIO: Here.

7 CLERK: Van Bramer?

8 VAN BRAMER: Here.

9 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito?

10 MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

11 [unidentified speaker]: The invocation for  
12 today's meeting will be delivered by Bishop Carlos  
13 Jesse of the New Life Covenant Fellowship in  
14 Brooklyn, New York. All rise, please.

15 BISHOP JESSE: Before I give the  
16 invocation, I would just like to say it's an honor  
17 and I'm thankful for this invitation to share with  
18 you on this day. While we're standing, on  
19 yesterday, we lost one of our great literary minds.  
20 And, so I am going to ask if you would be so kind  
21 as to just have a moment of silence for the life  
22 and the legacy of Dr. Maya Angelou. [pause] Thank  
23 you. And, now, I will make you happy twice. Happy

1 to see me come, and happy to see me go.

2 Our Father, and our God, I approach you at this  
3 moment in time, to ask your blessings upon this  
4 City Council, upon the members that gather here to  
5 serve and to do business on behalf of our great  
6 diversity. We ask that you will grant them  
7 compassion, wisdom, in their deliberation and  
8 direction in their decisions on legislation,  
9 budget, land use, and oversight. King Solomon  
10 asked for wisdom and knowledge. You gave him that  
11 and more. I ask you to add spiritual insight that  
12 they may see the impact and the effects, the good  
13 and the ills, the progress and the setbacks of  
14 their decisions that they make for our City. Bless  
15 our Speaker. Bless our Public Advocate and all of  
16 the members, again. Grant them creativity to solve  
17 and resolve the issues before them. Keep them  
18 humble and remind them each day that as they gather  
19 in these hollow chambers, that they are here not on  
20 their own behalf, but they're here for the voice,  
21 the voiceless, the homeless, the homeowner, the  
22 educated, the uneducated, the incarcerated and the  
23 free. Let them know that their labor will pay off

1 one day. For after all they have done all that  
2 they can do, at the end of the day, let us all hear  
3 You say, "Well done, my good and faithful  
4 servants." We ask this in Your wonderful name.  
5 Amen.

6 CUMBO: Motion to spread the invocation  
7 in full upon the record, will be today by Council  
8 Member, Inez Barron.

9 BARRON: Thank you. If I could have  
10 everyone's attention. I know we have a lot going  
11 on. Thank you, so much. I would... just want to say  
12 that, uh, Bishop Carlos Jesse has been known to me  
13 for many, many, many years. We joined the same  
14 church, some thirty eight years ago. That's the  
15 House of the Lord Church, which was pastored at  
16 that time by the Reverend Dr. Herbert  
17 Douchy[sic][sp?]00:41:24 who is, in fact, the  
18 national presiding minister of The House of the  
19 Lord Churches. He is a graduate of John Dewey High  
20 School, New York Theological Seminary and holds a  
21 Doctorate of Ministry from Springfield Christian  
22 College and Theological Seminary. He served as a  
23 pastor at one of the churches in East New York, and



1 he also served as pastor of Brooklyn Temple  
2 Universal Church, in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, under  
3 the leadership of Dr. Robert  
4 Jigits[sic][sp?]00:41:58 He has, also, for many  
5 years, been an instructor at Universal Bible  
6 Institute and Abundant Life Bible School. And, as  
7 you can see, he has a great sense of humor. If you  
8 are around him for more than five minutes, you will  
9 be laughing at some appropriate joke. So, I just  
10 ask that we spread the invocation on the record.  
11 And, thank you, so much.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I'd like to, uh,  
13 thank you for that, Council Member. I would like  
14 to ask my colleagues, and all in the room, to  
15 stand, once again, please. That before we get into  
16 the agenda today, I wanted to take a moment, as the  
17 Bishop did, as well, to acknowledge the passing of  
18 Maya Angelou, at the age of eighty six. Ms.  
19 Angelou grew up as an African American girl in the  
20 Jim Crow South, and rose to become one of the most  
21 noted and celebrated writers of the Twentieth and  
22 Twenty-First Century, receiving the Presidential  
23 Medal of Freedom in 2011. Her poetry and memoirs

1 tell stories of great hope and optimism in the face  
2 of great oppression and adversity. Ms. Angelou's  
3 passing is a great loss for America, but her  
4 writing will live on as a testament to the American  
5 spirit for generations to come. Today, we are also  
6 recognizing and remember Katherine Abate, who  
7 passed away at the age of sixty six, on May 17<sup>th</sup>.  
8 Katherine Abate served as a New York State Senator,  
9 Commissioner of the New York City... and, uh, a  
10 Commissioner of the New York City Corrections  
11 Department. After leaving public office, Ms. Abate  
12 dedicated many years to fighting for reproductive  
13 health programs and providing medical care to the  
14 most underserved among us. So, I would like to ask  
15 my colleagues to join us in another moment of  
16 silence for both Ms. Angelou and Ms. Abate. [pause]

17 SPEAKER MARK VIVERITO: Gracias. Thank you.

18 [1<sup>st</sup> unidentified male]: Adoption of minutes?

19 [2<sup>nd</sup> unidentified male]: None.

20 [1<sup>st</sup> unidentified male]: Messages and papers from  
21 the Mayor?

22 [2<sup>nd</sup> unidentified male]: Pre-considered M-65, City  
23 Tax Rates... [cross talk][interruption]

1 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Sorry... State and Federal  
2 legislation. Apologies.

3 [2<sup>nd</sup> unidentified male]: Pre-considered M-66,  
4 Investments by Local Governments.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: State and Federal  
6 legislation.

7 [2<sup>nd</sup> unidentified male]: Pre-considered M-67,  
8 submitting Meenakshi Srinivasan for appointment to  
9 the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules, privileges, and  
11 elections.

12 [unidentified speaker]: Communication from  
13 City County and Borough Offices.

14 [unidentified speaker]: M-68, Submitting John  
15 Flateau for Commissioner of Elections.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules, privileges and  
17 elections.

18 [unidentified speaker]: Petitions and  
19 communications?

20 [unidentified speaker]: None.

21 [unidentified speaker]: Land Use Call-Ups?

22 [unidentified speaker]: M-69.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Roll call.

1 CLERK: Arroyo?  
2 CLERK: Barron?  
3 BARRON: Aye.  
4 CLERK: Cabrera?  
5 CABRERA: Aye.  
6 CLERK: Chin?  
7 CHIN: Aye.  
8 CLERK: Cohen?  
9 COHEN: Aye.  
10 CLERK: Constantinides?  
11 CONTANTINIDES: Yes.  
12 CLERK: Cornegy?  
13 CORNEGY: Aye.  
14 CLERK: Crowley?  
15 CROWLEY: Aye.  
16 CLERK: Cumbo?  
17 CUMBO: Aye.  
18 CLERK: Deutsch?  
19 DEUTSCH: Aye.  
20 CLERK: Dickens?  
21 DICKENS: Aye.  
22 CLERK: Dromm?  
23 DROMM: Aye.

1 CLERK: Espinal?  
2 ESPINAL: Aye.  
3 CLERK: Eugene?  
4 EUGENE: Aye.  
5 CLERK: Ferreras?  
6 FERRERAS: Aye.  
7 CLERK: Garodnick?  
8 GARODNICK: Aye.  
9 CLERK: Gentile?  
10 GENTILE: Aye.  
11 CLERK: Gibson?  
12 GIBSON: Aye.  
13 CLERK: Greenfield?  
14 GREENFIELD: Aye.  
15 CLERK: Johnson?  
16 JOHNSON: Aye.  
17 CLERK: Kallos?  
18 KALLOS: Aye.  
19 CLERK: King?  
20 KING: Aye  
21 CLERK: Koo?  
22 KOO: Aye.  
23 CLERK: Koslowitz?

1 KOSLOWITZ: Aye.  
2 CLERK: Lancman?  
3 LANCMAN: Aye.  
4 CLERK: Lander?  
5 LANDER: Aye.  
6 CLERK: Levin?  
7 LEVIN: Aye.  
8 CLERK: Levine?  
9 LEVINE: Aye.  
10 CLERK: Maisel?  
11 MAISEL: Aye.  
12 CLERK: Matteo?  
13 MATTEO: Aye.  
14 CLERK: Mealy?  
15 CLERK: Menchaca?  
16 MENCHACA: Aye.  
17 CLERK: Mendez?  
18 MENDEZ: Aye.  
19 CLERK: Miller?  
20 MILLER: Aye.  
21 CLERK: Palma?  
22 PALMA: Aye.  
23 CLERK: Reynoso?

1 REYNOSO: Aye.  
2 CLERK: Richards?  
3 RICHARDS: Aye.  
4 CLERK: Rodriguez?  
5 RODRIGUEZ: Aye.  
6 CLERK: Rose?  
7 ROSE: Aye.  
8 CLERK: Rosenthal?  
9 ROSENTHAL: Aye.  
10 CLERK: Eugen?  
11 EUGENE: Aye.  
12 CLERK: Torres?  
13 TORRES: Aye.  
14 CLERK: Treyger?  
15 TREYGER: Aye.  
16 CLERK: Ulrich?  
17 ULRICH: Aye.  
18 CLERK: Vacca?  
19 VACCA: Aye.  
20 CLERK: Vallone?  
21 VALLONE: Aye.  
22 CLERK: Weprin?  
23 WEPRIN: Aye.

1 CLERK: Williams?

2 WILLIAMS: Aye.

3 CLERK: Wills?

4 WILLS: Mr. Majority Leader, I would  
5 like to permission to vote on all Land Use Call-  
6 Ups, um, general order calendar, items, as far  
7 as, and as well as Resolutions?

8 MAJORITY LEADER: Yes, permission granted.

9 WILLS: Okay. Thank you, very much. I  
10 vote, aye on all.

11 CLERK: Ignizio?

12 IGNIZIO: Aye.

13 CLERK: Van Bramer?

14 VAN BRAMER: Aye.

15 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito?

16 MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

17 [unidentified speaker]: Today's Land Use  
18 Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 48 in the  
19 affirmative, zero in the negative.  
20 Communications from the Speaker. [background  
21 noise/talking]

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I want to thank  
23 Council Member, Gentile for holding down the



1 fort. It's good to see our Public Advocate and,  
2 you know, there's been a lot of... before I begin  
3 my speaker's time, there's been a lot of debate  
4 recently, on an issue that's of utmost  
5 importance, it's not on our calendar of  
6 legislation, but I definitely wanted to call to  
7 order a piece of legislation and put it on our  
8 next order of business; which would be  
9 introducing legislation that would designate  
10 yogurt, the official snack of the city Council.  
11 [laughs] I would like to make that Motion.  
12 [applause] [unidentified female]: I second.

13 MAJORITY LEADER: Madam, Speaker. Madam  
14 Speaker, as the Majority Leader, I second that  
15 Motion.

16 [unidentified male]: Madam Speaker,  
17 I'd like to propose a friendly amendment. I want  
18 to make sure we have a Kosher option.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank... [cross talk]

20 WILLIAMS: Madam Speaker, as a member  
21 of leadership, I'd like to propose my favorite  
22 snack, Crunch 'N Munch, buttery toffee, to be  
23 exact.

1 [unidentified female]Speaker??: **00:49:17** Madam  
2 Speaker, I'm not sure about that, Jumaane, that's  
3 too crunchy for our seniors. We need an age-  
4 friendly snack. How about bananas?

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Ooo, ooh, like  
6 banana muffins, homemade.

7 [unidentified male]: Madam Speaker,  
8 please. With the obesity problem in this City,  
9 ladies and gentlemen, shouldn't we be talking  
10 about, light yogurt, please?

11 [unidentified male]: I think we need  
12 to do a survey of our districts, get their  
13 feedback, and I volunteer to introduce  
14 legislation for Rules Committee.

15 [unidentified male]Williams?: Madam  
16 Speaker, I propose we hold a competition with the  
17 five Chambers of Commerce to select a snack from  
18 one of our many small businesses. [gavel]

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Order, order, order,  
20 order, order, order. I'm presiding over this  
21 meeting because I already put in an LS request to  
22 designate Fro-Yo, [laughs] as the official snack  
23 of the City Council. [laughs] All in favor, say

1 aye. [applause]

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: There we go.  
3 Alright. Light-hearted moment. Thank you all.  
4 Um, that time provided by the City Council inner  
5 circle, thank you very much to everyone. Now,  
6 onto our serious business. Hopefully, everybody  
7 knows and has a sense of humor, knows what we  
8 were referencing there. So, getting back down to  
9 business. Today, we are voting on our  
10 comprehensive vision zero package, which includes  
11 eleven bills and six resolutions that will make  
12 our streets safer for pedestrians, bicyclists,  
13 and motorists. We will be requiring the  
14 Department of Transportation to repair or replace  
15 traffic signals within twenty four hours of  
16 receiving notice that a signal is damaged or  
17 missing. Will require the Department of  
18 Transportation to conduct a review of safety  
19 guidelines for work zones on bridges, and present  
20 their findings to the Council. Will pass  
21 legislation that requires the establishment of  
22 seven 20 mile per hour neighborhood slow zones,  
23 this year, and an additional seven, next year.

1 We are going to outlaw reckless, motorist stunt  
2 behaviors, such as, wheelies, donuts and  
3 burnouts, on our streets. We are going to hold  
4 taxi and limousine commission, licensed drivers,  
5 accountable to safe driving standards by  
6 requiring that accidents resulting in death or  
7 critical injury be properly investigated. We are  
8 also going to mandate that the taxi and limousine  
9 commission disclose detailed information and  
10 statistics about all traffic accidents and  
11 violations, and require it that drivers be held  
12 accountable for their violation points, both by  
13 the TLC and the State Department of Motor  
14 Vehicles. We are going to create penalties for  
15 drivers who injure bicyclists and pedestrians by  
16 not yielding to their right of way. And, we are  
17 going to require that the Department of  
18 Transportation's pre-existing comprehensive study  
19 of pedestrian fatalities and critical injuries be  
20 expanded to include an in-depth look at accidents  
21 resulting from left turns, and accidents  
22 occurring on arterial streets. Two areas that  
23 account for a heavily disproportionate number of

1 tragic crashes and accidents. Additionally, we  
2 have a resolution that calls upon the State  
3 Legislature to increase the penalty for reckless  
4 driving that results in death or serious injury  
5 as well as a resolution to increase penalties for  
6 leaving the scene of an accident, with reporting  
7 the accident to authorities.

8 We have another resolution asking the  
9 State to increase the penalty for driving on  
10 sidewalks, and calling for such an infraction to  
11 result in three points being added to the  
12 driver's license. In addition, we are asking  
13 that the State in that legislation giving New  
14 York City control of our own speed camera  
15 program, and our own red light program.

16 And, our final resolution in this safety  
17 package, calls upon the State to make it a  
18 misdemeanor for a driver to injure a pedestrian  
19 or bicyclist or failing to exercise due care. I  
20 want to thank all of my colleagues for their work  
21 on this legislation. Obviously, the staff as  
22 well. It's been a Citywide effort with multiple  
23 hearings and town hall meetings held in every

1 borough. I want to thank the legislative staff  
2 who have done a tremendous job on this package.  
3 I want to thank Laura Popa[sp?] Tiers Enaser  
4 [sp?], Lyle Frank, Jonathan Maserano[sp?] and  
5 Gathor Zaloff[sp?][phonetic]. And, I also want  
6 to commend the leadership of our Transportation  
7 Chair, Ydonis Rodriguez. And, I would like him  
8 to speak a few minutes on these measures.

9           RODRIGUEZ:       Thank you, Speaker for  
10 your leadership on helping us to move this  
11 package of legislation. I also, would like thank  
12 Mayor DeBlasio for the level of collaboration  
13 that we are so... we are able to create on getting  
14 some of those bills moving forward. Today, is a  
15 proud day for the Transportation Committee, and,  
16 I believe, for the entire Council. After two  
17 hearings, five Town Hall meetings held across the  
18 City, and many conversations with the public,  
19 including family members on the victims of  
20 traffic crashes; we are voting on eleven bills  
21 and six resolutions related to reduction,  
22 reducing traffic deaths in our City to zero. I  
23 am so grateful to everyone who worked on these

1 bills. My colleagues, the Speaker, Melissa Mark-  
2 Viverito, her team, especially Laura Popa and her  
3 great committee staff, Lyle Frank, Jonathan  
4 Maserano, and Gathor Zaloff, and my staff, Rosa  
5 Murphy and Johnny Aroj [sp?]. I must also  
6 acknowledge the dedication of the families of the  
7 victims of traffic crashes in the group.  
8 Families for safer streets, they've been the  
9 hero. You were our inspiration as we worked  
10 toward this moment, and we want to be sure that  
11 no parents, sibling or family members ever have  
12 to go through the pain you have suffered. We  
13 know that this is not over though. We have more  
14 work to do, and we in the Council will continue  
15 to fight to make our streets as safe as possible.  
16 We will go to Albany to let our State leaders  
17 know how important street safety measures are in  
18 New York City, and why we must have control of a  
19 speed limit and a speed and red light camera.  
20 This is the most basic role that we, as Council,  
21 can play, protecting the lives of our residence  
22 in New York City. And, I think that we are going  
23 a long way in meeting those goals today. Thank  
you.

1           SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO:    Thank you,  
2           Ydanis.  The Council will also be voting on six  
3           Land Use items for zoning and development in the  
4           City.  I would like to thank the Land Use  
5           Committee for these items and acknowledge the  
6           committee staffers, Gail Benjamin, Peter  
7           Janesik[sp?], Amy Levitan, and Ann McCoy for  
8           their work on these applications.

9           In addition, we have a bill out of the  
10          Finance Committee that will offer property tax  
11          abatement to home owners whose assessed property  
12          value has increased due to repairs on their  
13          property as a result of having damage from  
14          Hurricane Sandy.  This will provide relief to  
15          owners of 1,458 repaired or restored buildings.  
16          I would like to thank the Finance Committee  
17          staff, Tanisha Edwards and Emory Edev[sp?] for  
18          their work on this bill.  And, I would like to  
19          call on this bill's sponsor, Minority Leader,  
20          Vinny Ignizio to speak about this bill.

21                 IGNIZIO:  Thank you, Madam Speaker.  
22                 Today was a historic day for you, and I, and  
23                 Governor, and the Mayor.  You know, this is what



1 government is all about. It's what the public  
2 expects from us. It's what they should expect  
3 from us. And, we all came together, republicans,  
4 democrats, liberals, conservatives, and said, put  
5 all the labels aside, we gotta pass a bill to  
6 help these people. There is a cork in the law  
7 which mandated those that fixed their homes from  
8 Sandy, to be taxed at an incessantly higher rate  
9 because the capital improvements would be subject  
10 to 100% tax. I brought that idea that we need  
11 fix this to the Speaker, Mayor DeBlasio, Governor  
12 Cuomo, my friend, Senator Lanza, and our friends  
13 in the Assembly. And, every one of them said, we  
14 gotta fix this, and we gotta fix this now. And,  
15 I am really appreciative for everyone's support  
16 on the bill, for this Council leading the way,  
17 and for all of us to look to the future about how  
18 we can have a more permanent fix to those that  
19 are facing this issue. In essence, we made the  
20 homes of... but prior to this bill, we were making  
21 the homes of those that um, were so hit hard by  
22 Sandy, less affordable for the families to  
23 actually live in them. Someone in my district

1 got a tax bill, it's 30% higher. And, we will be  
2 able to go back to the average reduction, will be  
3 about \$1,100.00. So, um, I want to thank the  
4 staff as well. People worked very, very hard on  
5 this bill. The Speaker and I pledged that we  
6 would come up with a fix, and we did. And, I  
7 appreciate her partnership on this bill, as well  
8 as the Mayor's office, and the Governor, and  
9 Senator Lanza, and Assemblyman Silver for really  
10 working on this. And, um, on our local staff, we  
11 have people who work so hard for this Council,  
12 Tanisha Edwards, Emory Edev, Brandon Landtree and  
13 Peter Spencer from my office. We did a really  
14 good thing today, and I am really proud to be a  
15 member of this body. Thank you very much for  
16 this time, Madam Speaker.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
18 Minority Leader. We also have two resolutions  
19 related to honoring and supporting our military  
20 veterans. The first of which, sponsored by  
21 Council Member, Arroyo and myself, calls upon the  
22 President to sign legislation that would award  
23 Borinqueneers the Congressional Gold Medal, the

1 highest civilian honor awarded by Congress, for  
2 their service and sacrifices. The Borinqueneers,  
3 also known as the 65thh Infantry Regiment, was a  
4 United States Army unit based in Puerto Rico,  
5 renowned for its service during World War I,  
6 World War II, and the Korean War. The  
7 Borinqueneers became on the most decorated units  
8 that fought in the Korean War, all while facing  
9 discrimination, harassment, and even persecution  
10 by the country it was defending. It is long past  
11 time that they be given the recognition they  
12 deserve. And, I hope to see the President act on  
13 this Resolution swiftly.

14 The other resolution we are voting on is  
15 sponsored by Council Member, Ulrich, and calls  
16 upon the State Government to allow all veterans,  
17 regardless of what era they served in, to  
18 participate in the military service buy-back  
19 program. Employees of New York State who have  
20 previous public service can receive credit for  
21 that service towards their retirement by  
22 purchasing credit, a process known as buy-back.  
23 Under current State law, veterans can buy-back

1 military service, but only if their service  
2 occurred during listed periods of conflict. This  
3 Resolution will urge the State to correct that  
4 and let our veterans take advantage of the buy-  
5 back program for all their time spent in service  
6 to the U.S. Military. I want to thank the staff  
7 that worked on this, Kelly Taylor, Terz Anaser  
8 [**phonetic**]1:00:01 and Redmond Haskins. And, I  
9 would like to recognize Council Member, Ulrich,  
10 Chair of the Veterans Committee, and prime  
11 sponsor of this bill, to say a few words.

12           ULRICH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And,  
13 thank you to my colleagues who are supporting  
14 this Resolution, calling upon the State  
15 Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign  
16 Senate bill 4714 and the Assembly version 6974,  
17 sponsored by State Senator, Bill Larkin, and  
18 Assembly Member, Amy Paulin, respectively. This  
19 legislation, as you explained so eloquently,  
20 Speaker, would allow veterans who rendered peace  
21 time in the military service to purchase, to  
22 essentially buy-back and apply up to three years  
23 credit towards New York's retirement systems.

1 The current law permits active public employees  
2 who serve in the military during specific  
3 conflicts to purchase up to three years credit  
4 for their military service. As a result, the  
5 law, in current form, excludes many peace time  
6 veterans, and even some who served during other  
7 conflicts from Desert Storm, Bosnia, and up to  
8 the present day. It's an important piece of  
9 legislation, also, because women veterans, female  
10 veterans are also currently at a disadvantage  
11 because they do not normally, and have not,  
12 historically, assumed combat roles, and as a  
13 result, they were unable to purchase, a lot of  
14 the time that they served defending our country  
15 and performing very important jobs. So, it's an  
16 important bill that recognizes the value of all  
17 veterans' service to our country, would allow  
18 them to take that time and translate it into the  
19 retirement system, purchase credit, and get the  
20 recognition and the respect that they deserve.  
21 We are voting today to urge Albany to pass it.  
22 We are sending a very important message and, we  
23 are supporting the veterans, over two hundred

1 thousand veterans, which we all represent  
2 throughout the City of the New York. Thank you.

3 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Council  
4 Member, Ulrich. And, with that, end  
5 communication from the Speaker.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Discussion of General  
7 Orders. Council Member, Rosenthal.

8 ROSENTHAL: Thank you, Public Advocate.  
9 Um, I'm rising today to talk about Cooper's Law.  
10 And, as many of you know, I met Cooper's Stock's  
11 mother, two days after he was tragically killed  
12 by a taxi cab driver, while crossing the street  
13 with the light, holding the hand of his father.  
14 The taxi cab driver failed to yield, and took  
15 Cooper Stock's life. Through her tears, his  
16 mother, Dana Lerner, said one of her worst fears  
17 was the possibility that she would get into a  
18 taxi with the exact same driver who killed her  
19 son. By passing Cooper's Law today, we will give  
20 the TLC, the tool it needs to get these drivers  
21 off the road. To be clear, Cooper's Law only  
22 applies in an extremely serious traffic crashes  
23 where someone's life has been tragically ended,

1 or someone has been critically injured to the  
2 extent that their life is in serious danger. If  
3 a professional TLC driver kills or seriously  
4 injures someone, because that driver violated a  
5 traffic law, they should not be behind the wheel  
6 of a vehicle, if we are serious about changing  
7 the tone on our streets. There needs to be real  
8 consequences for serious violations such as  
9 these. I thank my colleagues for their support  
10 of Cooper's Law. My vote today to pass Cooper's  
11 Law and this package of Vision Zero related  
12 bills, is in honor of Cooper Stock and his family  
13 and all those who have suffered the tragic  
14 consequences of losing a loved one in a traffic  
15 crash. I want to thank Madam Public Advocate,  
16 Tish James, and express my thanks to Madam  
17 Speaker, Mark-Viverito and to Chair Rodriguez for  
18 his leadership on the Transportation Committee.  
19 Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member, Cabrera.

21 CABRERA: Thank you so much, Public  
22 Advocate. I am honored to support the Vision  
23 plan by sponsoring Intro. No. 46. This bill

1 addresses the Citywide issue of broken traffic  
2 control signals. On February 17, 2014, the New  
3 York Daily News reported that a crosswalk sign,  
4 in Kensington, Brooklyn, had a pictogram that  
5 indicated pedestrians to hold and walk at the  
6 same time. This led to a complaint file, which  
7 was closed, only after three days, when the City  
8 claimed that the pictogram had been fixed. In  
9 reality, the problem continued and it took the  
10 City over a month to correct the crosswalk sign.  
11 When devices that are made to safeguard lives  
12 become a hazard, it is imperative that prompt  
13 actioning, great measures be taken in order to  
14 reduce and prevent pedestrian death. Intro. No.  
15 46 will mandate administrative code and New York  
16 City to mandate that all missing or damaged  
17 traffic signals be repaired within twenty four  
18 hours after the initial notice. Furthermore,  
19 D.O.T. will be required to maintain a log book of  
20 the dates and times it is notified of a  
21 malfunctioning traffic control signal.  
22 Specifically, the log will include the date and  
23 the time when the notice is received, when the



1 signal is repaired, or determine that a repair is  
2 not necessary. I urge my colleagues to vote in  
3 favor of this important legislation that plays an  
4 integral part in improving pedestrian traffic  
5 safety. I want to thank Madam Speaker, and Chair  
6 Rodriguez for all your help and for making our  
7 City safer. Thank you so much.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Report of  
9 Special Committees?

10 CLERK??1:06:18 None.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Reports of Standing  
12 Committees?

13 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
14 Finance. Pre-considered Intro. 360, tax  
15 abatement.

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

18 CLERK: Pre-considered Reso. 256,  
19 Organization Funding.

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

22 CLERK: Pre-considered LU-77 and Reso.  
23 265, and LU-78 and Reso. 266.

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

3 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land  
4 Use LU-58 and Reso. 267, Udat[sic], Brooklyn.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
6 General Orders.

7 CLERK: LU-59 and Reso. 268, Sidewalk  
8 Café.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
10 General Orders.

11 CLERK: LU-66 and Reso. 269, Udat,  
12 Manhattan.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
14 General Orders.

15 CLERK: LU-67 and Reso. 270, and LU-69  
16 and Reso. 272.

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

19 CLERK: LU-73 and Reso. 273, and LU-74  
20 and Reso. 274.

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

23 CLERK: Report of the Committee on State and

1 Federal legislation. Pre-considered M-65, City  
2 Taxes.

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

5 CLERK: Pre-considered M-66, Investments  
6 by Local Governments.

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

9 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
10 Transportation, Intro. 43-A through Intro. 238,  
11 Intro. 43-A, 46-A, 80-A, 140-A, 167-A, 168-A,  
12 171-A, 174-A, and 238-A, Vision Zero legislation.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
14 coupled on General Orders.

15 CLERK: Intro. 272-A, TLC Persistent  
16 Violators Program.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
18 coupled on General Orders, with a message of  
19 necessity.

20 CLERK: Intro. 277-A, TLC Crash Data.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
22 coupled on General Orders.

23 CLERK: On the General Order calendar, Resolution

1 appointing various persons, Commissioner of  
2 Deeds.

3 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
4 General Orders. And, at this time, I ask for a  
5 roll call vote on all items on the Coupled  
6 General Order calendar.

7 CLERK: Arroyo?

8 CLERK: Barron?

9 BARRON: Aye.

10 CLERK: Cabrera?

11 CABRERA: No, on 272-A, aye on the Reso.

12 CLERK: Chin?

13 CHIN: Aye, on all.

14 CLERK: Cohen?

15 COHEN: Aye.

16 CLERK: Constantinides?

17 CONTANTINIDES: Madam Public Advocate, may  
18 I be... please, be excused to explain my vote?

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

20 CONSTANTINIDES: I will be voting aye,  
21 on all. Um, but I do have some concerns about  
22 Intro. 171. I first, want to congratulate the  
23 Council on the great work that we're doing today,

1 we are really taking back our streets. But, on  
2 171, I do have some concerns, I know we can get  
3 through. If we want to keep our streets safe, we  
4 need to make sure we hold drivers accountable. We  
5 also need to make sure that everyone has full  
6 discretion to get things done through the  
7 administrative process and due process. So, I will  
8 be voting aye, on all, just to express on that  
9 concern.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. May we  
11 have some quite in the Chambers, please? Continue  
12 with the vote.

13 CLERK: Cornegy?

14 CORNEGY: Permission to explain my vote?

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

16 CORNEGY: So, as a pedestrian, a cyclist  
17 and a father who often walks my young children to  
18 their neighborhood schools, I strongly support the  
19 public safety goals underlying the Vision Zero  
20 bills we are voting on today, and, will vote in  
21 favor of the package. At the same time, I have  
22 learned a great deal from the contention's effort  
23 to implement a slow zone Bedford-Stuyvesant. The

1 proposal to support it by some residents, including  
2 a strong contingent of parents, of pre-school aged  
3 children, concerned about the risk, speeding cars  
4 pose to their children, their kids and all  
5 children. On the other side, our community members  
6 that D.O.T. did not maintain open and honest  
7 communication during the planning process, reliably  
8 answered questions about potential trade-offs, or  
9 based their decision making on the reliable data.  
10 And, for those folks in the middle, for example,  
11 principals concerned about speed limits in their  
12 schools, and equally concerned about car exhaust  
13 that contributes to asthma rates. Community based  
14 decision making is difficult, and it can be  
15 emotional, but it's also what our democratic  
16 process is about. I believe the discussion in Bed-  
17 Stuy is already leading to greater respect and  
18 understanding between neighbors and our  
19 increasingly diverse community. At its core,  
20 Vision Zero seeks to create a cultural change in  
21 our bustling City, making safety a priority in all  
22 our thinking. This change will not occur if  
23 communities feel that these changes are imposed on

1 them rather than being developed in collaboration  
2 with them. I vote in favor of today's bills with  
3 the understanding that with respect to the creation  
4 of slow zones, Department of Transportation will  
5 continue working to build consensus within our  
6 communities, respect the decisions of our hard  
7 working volunteer community boards, and share  
8 relevant data and other basis for decisions in a  
9 truly transparent fashion. In this way, everyone  
10 has a stake in these issues, will feel that they  
11 have a voice that is heard and respected. I vote  
12 aye, on all.

13 CLERK: Crowley?

14 CROWLEY: I vote aye, on all. I want to  
15 thank the Speaker, my colleagues for making  
16 transportation safety a priority. I am honored to  
17 support two resolutions that we are... to sponsor two  
18 resolutions that we are voting on today that will  
19 hold drivers more accountable, that will make them  
20 think twice about driving recklessly, and at the  
21 end of the day, strengthen the law for those who  
22 hurt or endanger the lives others. Unfortunately,  
23 15% of traffic crashes has drivers leaving the

1 scene of the accident or the crash, and uh, with  
2 this legislation, we would make it a more severe  
3 penalty to leave the scene of the crime... the scene  
4 of the accident. So, I vote aye, and uh, thank  
5 you.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

7 CLERK: Cumbo?

8 CUMBO: Permission to explain my vote?

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

10 CUMBO: I want to first, publicly, thank  
11 all of my colleagues. Being in the 35<sup>th</sup> Council  
12 District, with Atlantic Avenue, and Eastern  
13 Parkway, are some of the most dangerous  
14 thoroughfares in New York City. And, in my short  
15 time as a council member, we've had a number of  
16 fatalities there. And, so, I thank you so much for  
17 this opportunity earlier in the administration to  
18 give those families, who have suffered through  
19 these tragedies, an opportunity to know that we are  
20 working to make sure that this doesn't happen  
21 again, particularly, to a child or a senior, who  
22 are our most vulnerable. I, with the exception of  
23 167... one of the challenges that I have in that, is



1 that coming from the East Flatbush community where  
2 I was born and raised, many young people uh,  
3 participate in motorcycle or club culture. And, I  
4 think that some of the challenges will be, is that  
5 many of them could suffer imprisonment of not more  
6 than six months or significant fines or both. And,  
7 I feel that this could be very detrimental to many  
8 young people, particularly, that in the summertime  
9 or at Jones Beach and other places, where they may  
10 congregate or gather together, that the type of  
11 behavior on the motorcycles could pose a serious  
12 challenge. And, I would hate to see so many young  
13 people of color imprisoned for activities that are  
14 happening over the summer. So, that is my vote.  
15 Aye, on all the rest, with the exception of 167.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member, Cumbo,  
17 are you voting no on that bill or an abstention?

18 CUMBO: No.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

20 CLERK: Deutsch?

21 DEUTSCH: Aye, on all.

22 CLERK: Dickens?

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: How do you vote?

1           DICKENS:   Aye.

2           PUBLIC ADVOCATE:    Thank you.

3           CLERK:       Dromm?

4           DROMM:        Aye, on all.

5           CLERK:       Espinal?

6           ESPINAL:   Permission to explain my vote?

7           PUBLIC ADVOCATE:    Yes.

8           ESPINAL:   I would like to explain my vote

9           on 171-A.  I just have to say that I am pleased

10          to see the amendment to... the amendment to see to

11          give TLC the discretion to make the determination

12          whether or not a fatal car crash, whether they

13          should revoke a driver's license.  And, I vote

14          aye, on all.

15          PUBLIC ADVOCATE:    Thank you.

16          CLERK:        Eugene?

17          EUGENE:       I vote aye.

18          CLERK:        Ferreras?

19          FERRERAS:  I vote aye.

20          CLERK:        Garodnick?

21          GARODNICK:  Madam Public Advocate, a

22          moment to explain my vote?

23          PUBLIC ADVOCATE:    Yes.

1           GARODNICK:       Thank you. I just wanted  
2 to congratulate all of my colleagues for their  
3 introduction of this package of bills on Vision  
4 Zero, an initiative which is an extremely  
5 important one for all of us. And, I will support  
6 all of the bills on today's agenda. I did want  
7 to note and to echo the comments of my colleague,  
8 Council Member, Espinal, that on 171-A there were  
9 some questions and concerns raised at the hearing  
10 this morning about the questions of definition of  
11 cause of an accident and the process by which a  
12 determination is made that an action was, in  
13 fact, the cause of a crash. And, so, as a  
14 result, Council Member, Rosenthal, who is the  
15 sponsor and to her great credit, has expressed  
16 willingness to take a look at some language to be  
17 able to revisit and to address some of those  
18 concerns. I appreciate that very much, and I  
19 know that my colleagues on the Committee and  
20 others appreciate that too. And, also, to  
21 Speaker Mark-Viverito, we thank you for hearing  
22 those questions and also, for your willingness to  
23 have that conversation. But, fundamentally, I

1 think that is a good and right bill, but we've  
2 those uh, um, subsequent corrections, I believe,  
3 that it will be exactly where it needs to be.  
4 And, with that, I will vote aye, on the entire  
5 package. Thank you.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

7 CLERK: Gentile?

8 GENTILE: With my congratulations to all,  
9 I vote yes, rule except on, um, 171-A, despite  
10 the amendment, I still have concerns about the  
11 summary suspension. So, I will abstain on 171-A.

12 CLERK: Gibson?

13 GIBSON: Permission to explain my vote?

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

15 GIBSON: Thank you, Madam Public

16 Advocate. I want to commend the Speaker and all  
17 of my colleagues for just the incredible package  
18 of Vision Zero related bills, and certainly, the  
19 Sandy recovery bill as well, for many of our  
20 homeowners. And, I am extremely proud to have  
21 joined with our Transportation Chair, Council  
22 Member, Rodriguez, in hosting a number of Vision  
23 Zero town host throughout the entire City,

1 recognizing that this Vision Zero is a platform  
2 to stimulate conversation and to really hear from  
3 all New Yorkers on how we collectively work  
4 together, with all stakeholders to reduce traffic  
5 injuries and fatalities across the City. I am  
6 really proud of a lot of the bills that we have  
7 put forth with a lot of input. And, I will be  
8 voting aye, on all, with the exception of Intro.  
9 171-A. I do want to learn a little bit more  
10 about that, and I know there have been changes  
11 that have been made. I will abstain on that, and  
12 I will be voting aye on all. And, I congratulate  
13 all of my colleagues on this incredible  
14 partnership. Thank you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

16 CLERK: Greenfield?

17 GREENFIELD: May I explain my vote?

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

19 GREENFIELD: Thank you. I am very  
20 excited today to be passing a piece of  
21 legislation I introduced back in 2011. And, this  
22 legislation would require New York City to  
23 establish seven neighborhood slow zones in the

1 years 2014 and 2015. And, also, to establish  
2 fifty school slow zones per year. And, part of  
3 what we're doing is that once we conclude the  
4 neighborhood slow zones in 2015, we are going to  
5 ask the D.O.T. to give us a report that will  
6 actually give us the breakdown of the  
7 effectiveness of these slow zones. I just want  
8 to note and thank especially the Speaker. It is  
9 certainly refreshing that we are able to get this  
10 legislation to see the light of day. I want to  
11 thank Chair, Ydanis Rodriguez. I traveled with  
12 him to Albany the other week, to advocate on  
13 behalf of, in general, allowing the City of New  
14 York to control its only traffic destiny. And, I  
15 also want to thank Chair, Vanessa Gibson, because  
16 one of the things that I have been saying for  
17 years, is that, this isn't just a transportation  
18 issue, it's a public safety issue. And, years  
19 ago, when we told folks in New York City that we  
20 could lower crime and lower the murder rate,  
21 people laughed and they said it was impossible.  
22 And, when we started a few years ago, and we said  
23 that we could lower the crash rate and we could

1 lower the rate of pedestrians getting killed,  
2 people said that was impossible, and we are  
3 proving them wrong. And, so, it's an exciting  
4 day. And, I also, of course, want to thank the  
5 outstanding staff who worked with, Lyle Frank and  
6 Lauro Popa for their great late night work to  
7 make sure that this entire package of legislation  
8 was passed. Thank you very much.

9 CLERK: Johnson?

10 JOHNSON: Permission to explain my vote?

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

12 JOHNSON: I am very proud today to support  
13 this package of bills. And, I really want to  
14 commend the hard and grueling work most it, and  
15 not the sexiest part of City government, looking  
16 at traffic and transportation details of two, uh,  
17 Ydanis Rodriguez, the Chair of the Committee,  
18 Speaker Mark-Viverito, and all the folks that  
19 have put forward these smart bills. I want to  
20 echo the comments of my colleague, Council  
21 Member, Cornegy, in saying that it is my hope  
22 that on some of these pieces of legislation, that  
23 when they become law, and are part of the

1 administrative code, we ensure that local  
2 communities are worked with, because typically,  
3 local neighborhoods and block associations and  
4 community boards know where the trouble spots  
5 are, know where the Department of Transportation  
6 needs to focus. And, some of these things really  
7 matter, depending on the block you're on, and the  
8 thoroughfare you're on. So, I am a supporter of  
9 these bills. I think it's the first step. This  
10 is a public safety issue. It's also a public  
11 health issue, in ensuring that people are going  
12 to be safe in our streets. And, we have to make  
13 sure that accident data is reported accurately  
14 from hospitals, whether it be bicyclists,  
15 pedestrians, or people who are in vehicles. With  
16 that, I congratulate my colleagues. And, I vote  
17 aye, on all.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member, how do  
19 you vote?

20 JOHNSON: I vote aye, on all.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

22 CLERK: Kallos?

23 KALLOS: Aye, on all.



1 CLERK: King?

2 KING: Permission to explain my vote?

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

4 KING: First, I want to congratulate  
5 everybody that had something to do with making  
6 sure that Vision Zero starts off right. As a  
7 driver, in the City of New York, who respects the  
8 driving laws, I know we all do, I am looking  
9 forward to not only voting aye on all of these  
10 legislations, but I am looking forward to a  
11 spirited debate as we just started holding  
12 drivers accountable for being on the roads, but  
13 then we start holding pedestrians accountable for  
14 texting and walking blindly on the streets of New  
15 York also. So, that's something I think we  
16 should look at. I know that would actually, make  
17 Vision Zero a real Vision Zero. So, I thank and  
18 congratulate everyone. And, I vote aye, on all.

19 CLERK: Koo?

20 KOO: Aye.

21 CLERK: Koslowitz?

22 KOSLOWITZ: Before I vote, I would like to  
23 take this opportunity to congratulate my Chief of

1 Staff, Vicky Morales, on her forthcoming marriage  
2 this Sunday. And, I vote aye, on all.

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

4 Congratulations Ms. Morales. Did she say the  
5 fourth marriage or on your forthcoming marriage?  
6 [laughs] Congratulations. Continue the vote.

7 CLERK: Lancman?

8 LANCMAN: Aye, on all.

9 CLERK: Lander?

10 LANDER: Permission to explain my vote?

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

12 LANDER: Thank you. I really want to  
13 congratulate the Speaker and Chair Rodriguez and  
14 everyone who worked on these bills. I want to  
15 note in the package, at the beginning, there was  
16 a bill that would have required the NYPD to post  
17 crash data online in a map-able and downloadable  
18 format. The Council had actually already passed  
19 bills requiring it, but previously, the NYPD had  
20 not been willing to do so, Local Law 11 of 2012  
21 and Local Law 12 of 2011. The Open Data Law and  
22 Crash Data Law passed by Council Members, Gail  
23 Brewer and Jessica Lappin. And, I am very

1 pleased that the NYPD and the administration not  
2 only moved quickly, and already have put the  
3 crash data information online, but sent us a  
4 letter making clear that that is in compliance  
5 with those laws. So, in addition to all the  
6 sponsors of today's bills, I just want to give  
7 shout-outs to former council members, Gail Brewer  
8 and Jessica Lappin because they are also part of  
9 our Vision Zero history-making, today, with this  
10 package. I proudly vote aye, on all.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

12 CLERK: Levin?

13 LEVIN: Permission to explain my vote?

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes, sir.

15 LEVIN: Thank you. I just want to offer  
16 my congratulations to the Speaker, Chair  
17 Rodriguez, and to all the sponsors of these  
18 bills, as well as, offer my thanks to all the  
19 families that testified to the Transportation  
20 Committee and have worked with the Council  
21 Members in support of these bills. Those  
22 families who have lost loved ones, who have  
23 displayed remarkable courage in the face of

1 unbelievable tragedy. And, so, I want to  
2 acknowledge their hard work and thank them for  
3 their tenacity and for their courage. And, I  
4 vote aye, on all.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

6 CLERK: Levine?

7 LEVINE: Madam Speaker, permission... Madam  
8 Public Advocate, permission to explain my vote?

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

10 LEVINE: Thank you. I want to also  
11 congratulate Speaker, as well as, [Spanish]  
12 Rodriguez, for their work in shepherding this  
13 package forward. And, I want to express my  
14 support, in particular, for Intro. 117, which  
15 calls on the State to grant New York City the  
16 right to control its own speed camera program.  
17 There is a pilot program in place, allowing us to  
18 put speed cameras in twenty school zones. And,  
19 in the first four months of this year, it has  
20 already recorded 14,000 drivers going above the  
21 speed limit. Clearly, this program is needed and  
22 effective. The State recently granted us an  
23 expansion of this program

1 to cover 140 school zones, but this is... these  
2 cameras will only be in effect right before,  
3 during, and right after school. And, we cannot  
4 place them outside of school zones. Furthermore,  
5 there is over a thousand school buildings in New  
6 York City, and this comes nowhere near to meeting  
7 our full need, which is why we are calling on the  
8 State to simply grant us the right to control  
9 this program. We know that Albany has denied  
10 self-rule to New York City and so many domains,  
11 red regulation, income taxes, but, uh, it's the  
12 height of absurdity that we can't even determine  
13 the location of a speed camera, here in the five  
14 boroughs. Which is why I am proud to support  
15 this Reso. and the entire package, and proudly  
16 vote aye. Thank you.

17 CLERK: Maisel?

18 MAISEL: Aye, on all.

19 CLERK: Matteo?

20 MATTEO: No, on M-65, aye on the rest.

21 CLERK: Mealy?

22 CLERK: Menchaca?

23 MENCHACA: Permission to explain my vote?

1 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

2 MENCHACA: I want to echo all the sentiment  
3 of just pride, being part of the City Council and  
4 the work that the Transportation Committee and  
5 our Chair, Ydanis Rodriguez, and our Speaker, and  
6 the staff, including my staff, Lee Wellington and  
7 Gina Ronowitz[sp?][phonetic] who have been really  
8 looking at such a long list of comprehensive  
9 bills. We have had questions about due process  
10 and making sure that we are fair throughout this  
11 work that we are doing. I, uh, want to continue  
12 to echo that sentiment as well as we move forward  
13 in implementation of these bills and, look to  
14 review the work from these bills. Just last week  
15 in Redhook on Vanbrunt[sp?] [phonetic] **01:26:32**  
16 Street we had a collision between a car and a  
17 pedestrian, not a lot of fanfare, and it  
18 continues to remind us about the work that we  
19 have to do in our local communities in our  
20 districts. And, so, with pride, I vote aye, on  
21 all.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. May we  
23 have some quite in the Chambers, please? Thank  
you.

1 CLERK: Mendez?

2 MENDEZ: Aye, on all.

3 CLERK: Miller?

4 MILLER: Permission to explain my vote?

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

6 MILLER: As it was said today, I sit here  
7 with great pride, in this Council, for taking  
8 great strides in something that is not sexy.  
9 Public safety of our pedestrians in our  
10 communities, in general. I want to thank the  
11 Speaker for her leadership, and I particularly,  
12 want to thank my Chair of the Transportation  
13 Committee, on his leadership around this issue.  
14 I, too, had some issues and some concerns with  
15 some of the legislation here, and, particularly,  
16 171-A. Um, understanding that we are, certainly  
17 trying to create higher standards for  
18 professionals. Having been a professional driver  
19 and represented professional operators in the  
20 City of New York, I understand the necessity for  
21 that. And, I think that we were able to  
22 articulate that, and the needs for... to uh,  
23 further work around this legis... further work

1 around this legislation. And, I am satisfied  
2 that all those involved are committed to that.  
3 So, with that in mind, I vote aye, on all. And,  
4 I would like to dedicate that to Mr. William  
5 Fazon[sp?] [phonetic], one of the residence of  
6 Cam... Heights who was, as a pedestrian... I'm sorry,  
7 as a cyclist, struck and killed by a twenty five  
8 year old operator with a suspended license who  
9 will not be impacted by any of this legislation.  
10 So, as it was said, we have a lot of work to do  
11 to ensure that our citizens remain safe. Aye on  
12 all.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Quite in  
14 the Chambers, please.

15 CLERK: Palma?

16 PALMA: Aye.

17 CLERK: Reynoso?

18 REYNOSO: Permission to explain my vote?

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

20 REYNOSO: I just want to really thank  
21 Chairman, Ydanis Rodriguez for the work that he  
22 did in the Transportation Committee, to take  
23 account all interests, including the drivers, who



1 he met before and after, extensively, to hear  
2 their concerns. I also want to say, uh, there..  
3 during crashes, or let's say, during a murder, a  
4 suspect, or anyone would be taken or detained in  
5 jail, temporarily, as the trial moves forward,  
6 um, in this case when a crash had the suspension  
7 of a license would be almost the exact same form,  
8 which would be a temporary detainment until we  
9 resolve the issues that need to be resolved, or  
10 at least the investigation moves through. So, I  
11 am extremely supportive of these bills,  
12 especially, Cooper's Law. And, I want to vote  
13 aye. Thank you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Richards?

16 RICHARDS: Aye, on all.

17 CLERK: Rodriguez?

18 RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

19 CLERK: Rose?

20 ROSE: Permission to explain my vote?

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

22 ROSE: I vote No, on M-65. And, I want  
23 to especially commend Mayor DeBlasio and Speaker

1 Mark-Viverito for their stewardship of this  
2 complex Vision Zero legislation, and for the  
3 inclusiveness of the process. I want to  
4 especially thank Chairman Rodriguez and Chair  
5 Gibson, and D.O.T. for their extensive outreach  
6 and providing all of the communities in the five  
7 bor...

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Excuse me, Council  
9 Member. Can we have some quite in the Chambers,  
10 please? Thank you. I apologize.

11 ROSE: Thank you. For providing  
12 extensive outreach to all of the five boroughs,  
13 allowing all of the citizens to provide feedback  
14 about the Vision Zero bills. It is especially  
15 important to me because in 2013, out of fourteen  
16 traffic deaths on Staten Island, ten were  
17 pedestrians, and we weren't even six hours into  
18 2014 when twenty nine year old Philippe  
19 Avila[sp?] [phonetic] was struck and killed by a  
20 hit and run driver. Um, I am especially pleased  
21 about the slow zones, especially around schools  
22 and the countdown clocks. And, I vote aye on all  
23 of the Vision Zero legislation. Thank you.

1 CLERK: Rosenthal?

2 ROSENTHAL: Permission to explain my vote?

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

4 ROSENTHAL: First, I want to thank, uh,  
5 in terms of Cooper's Law, I want to thank Council  
6 Member, Kallos, who just stepped out..  
7 [interruption] Thank you. ...for raising concerns  
8 about due process on this bill, very early on,  
9 and for giving us an opportunity to address those  
10 concerns appropriately, and, rightly so. I want  
11 to thank Lyle Frank and Laura Popa for their  
12 unbelievable hard and dedicated work in bringing  
13 this law to the floor today. And, lastly, I just  
14 want to mention that, uh, I believe that the City  
15 is doing the right thing today. And, I look  
16 forward to continuing the conversation as we move  
17 forward. It's my intention to ask this body to  
18 consider a resolution to the State that would ask  
19 the same of all drivers currently in the State of  
20 New York, if you are \$10,000.00 in arrears on  
21 paying taxes, you lose your driver's license. If  
22 you kill someone because you failed to yield, or  
23 if you've run a red light, or if you are

1 speeding, you get a few points on your license.  
2 I am going to ask this body to continue with the  
3 work it's done today. New York City is on the  
4 right side of history. And, I am looking forward  
5 to bringing this same legislation in the form of  
6 a resolution to the State. We are changing  
7 history. We are moving away from treating these  
8 incidences as accidents, and to the place where  
9 they rightly belong, as crashes. Thank you. I  
10 vote aye, on all.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

12 CLERK: Torres?

13 TORRES: Aye, on all.

14 CLERK: Treyger?

15 TREYGER: Permission to explain my vote?

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

17 TREYGER: I would like to first, commend  
18 the Speaker and Minority Leader Inizio on  
19 recognizing the many issues still face... uh, uh...  
20 still facing in the City of New York. It is, it  
21 was really outrageous that in addition... you know,  
22 that the government was seeing that the needed  
23 repairs made to their homes was seen as some sort

1 of improvement. And, I commend the swiftness of  
2 action by the City Council. And, I thank our  
3 partners in the State as well as the Mayor's  
4 office. I would like to also commend the  
5 Speaker, Chair Rodriguez, and many of my  
6 colleagues on the bold initiative for Vision  
7 Zero. My hope and my concern will be that we  
8 reach every sector of our City, every section of  
9 our City. We had three fatalities this past  
10 winter, a brutal winter, involving trucks that  
11 ran over people, backed into people. And, we  
12 must make sure that we have... that this is the  
13 foundation of something bigger, and that we reach  
14 every single corner of our City, making sure it's  
15 safe for our families and our children, in every  
16 part of New York. So, I vote aye, on all. Thank  
17 you.

18 CLERK: Ulrich?

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: You vote aye?

20 ULRICH: I vote No, on M-65, and aye on  
21 all others.

22 CLERK: Vacca?

23 VACCA: I want to thank the Speaker and

1 the Transportation Committee. These bills are  
2 great. I also have to single out Commissioner  
3 Trottenberg, I think she is fantastic. And, when  
4 you mention the word collaborative, that word  
5 really fits her, and her commitment to these  
6 important issues. And, I thank her as well.  
7 But, I vote aye, on all. Thank you.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

9 CLERK: Vallone?

10 VALLONE: Aye, on all.

11 CLERK: Weprin?

12 WEPRIN: Permission to explain my vote?

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

14 WEPRIN: I want to thank, as was  
15 mentioned before, but I want to thank the  
16 families who testified, who lost loved ones. That  
17 testimony was so powerful, that it not only  
18 helped drive this agenda, but I know for myself,  
19 it changed the way I live my life. I drive  
20 differently, I cross the street differently, I  
21 hold my child's hand differently. And, they  
22 really, you know, have made a big difference in  
23 what we are doing here today. And, we want

1 people to know that we mean business, that we  
2 have to... when we talk about following traffic  
3 laws, that you're going to have to do so. That  
4 being said, I am supporting all the legislation  
5 with the exception of 171-A. And, 171-A, which  
6 Council Member, Rosenthal's district, I think is  
7 a very well intentioned bill, dealing with a  
8 terrible, terrible tragedy, and issue that happen  
9 every day; but, what it does, is it attacks the  
10 livery drivers, it basically creates, in my  
11 opinion, a strict liability standard, that no  
12 matter what the circumstances, if someone is  
13 critically injured or worse, that they lose their  
14 license to drive a car, which is their  
15 livelihood. And, there is no question, and, I  
16 know the sponsor agrees with me about this, that  
17 there is different degrees of culpable behavior.  
18 Someone speeding at 80 miles an hour is different  
19 than someone who does a rolling stop at a stop  
20 sign, if the outcome could be tragic nonetheless.  
21 So, I know there has been some talk about trying  
22 to do an amendment in the future, to try to  
23 create... make sure that whatever the adjudicating

1 body is, that they do have some discretion to may  
2 be not be harsh a penalty because, not to  
3 diminish what has happened at all, but this is  
4 the livelihood of these drivers. And, if someone  
5 is a great driver up until that one moment, to  
6 lose their livelihood, and their children's... the  
7 food that feeds their children, I think would add  
8 to the problem. And, I think there are penalties  
9 that can be given that might be lesser for those  
10 people who are not as culpable as those we really  
11 want to get. So, with that in mind, I am going  
12 to vote No, on 171-A, with the hope that we can  
13 get some changes, and aye on all the rest. Thank  
14 you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

16 CLERK: Williams?

17 WILLIAMS: May I be excused to explain my  
18 vote?

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

20 WILLIAMS: First, I have been persuaded by  
21 some of my colleagues about 171-A. And, I wanted  
22 to abstain on 171-A until I get some further  
23 information. I vote aye



1 on all the rest. I did want to say, in  
2 particular, this last... last stated that I voted  
3 against the resolution that would lower the speed  
4 limit, but I am supporting Intro. 140-A. Um,  
5 and, I wanted to point that out because, I think,  
6 this is a great bill, that we'll get some data  
7 from when we have the slow zones, I think we  
8 should have, to see how effective it is. I think  
9 in a whole sale down zoning of the entire City  
10 doesn't get to the heart of what we need to get  
11 to, in enforcing the current bills... the current  
12 speed limit will do that, but this in particular,  
13 slow zones around schools, and things of that  
14 nature, in addition, to getting information on  
15 the slow zones, I think, are very important.  
16 But, I am proud of this body for taking on the  
17 issue we are taking on now. Congratulations to  
18 everyone involved.

19 CLERK: Ignizio?

20 IGNIZIO: I just want to associate my  
21 comments for that of my former colleague, my, uh,  
22 my colleague who spoke before me, Jumaane  
23 Williams, on slow zones versus overall lowering

1 the speed limit, which I don't support, but the  
2 school zones, which I do. And, I vote No, on M-  
3 65, and aye on all others. And, I wanted to  
4 thank my two Staten Island colleagues, who I  
5 inadvertently left out of my speech before,  
6 Debbie Rose, and Steve Matteo, who helped with  
7 the Sandy legislation, and have been a support  
8 throughout. Thank you very much.

9 CLERK: Van Bramer?

10 VAN BRAMER: Permission to explain my  
11 vote?

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

13 VAN BRAMER: Thank you very much, Madam  
14 Public Advocate. I just want to echo so many  
15 comments. I am very, very proud to be a member  
16 of the City Council that is passing eleven  
17 introductions and six resolutions, including  
18 Reso. 118, which I am the prime sponsor of, which  
19 would give New York City control over its own red  
20 light program. And, I am a prime co-sponsor of  
21 Reso. 117, which would give our City control over  
22 its own speed light camera program. We have had  
23 a rash of tragic deaths, including several in my

1 district. And, I want to say their names and  
2 their ages because they're not here. Nosha  
3 Nahadian[sp?][**phonetic**]01:39:36 was eight years  
4 old when he was run over by a truck, crossing the  
5 street to go to school, P.S. 152 in Woodside;  
6 Tenzen Drudak[sp?][**phonetic**] was sixteen years  
7 old. He was hit by a reckless driver, when he  
8 was waiting on the sidewalk to cross the street  
9 to go to high school in Long Island City; Louis  
10 Bravo was nineteen years old, crossing the street  
11 in front of a school in Woodside when he was  
12 mowed down by a driver who left the scene, and  
13 who has not been caught since; Kumar  
14 Raginoff[sp?][**phonetic**] was a father who was on  
15 his way to one of his first days at work in Long  
16 Island City at a hotel, a father of several  
17 children, he was killed by a hit and run driver,  
18 who left and who has not been caught; and Karen  
19 Farris[sp?][**phonetic**] was twenty years old when  
20 she was struck, also by a car in Long Island  
21 City, killed, a driver who has not been caught to  
22 this day. We have an epidemic in our City. We  
23 are taking forceful and strong action today as a

1 City Council to make sure that Vision Zero  
2 becomes a reality, to make sure that no death  
3 occurs on our streets, that no mother like, Nosha  
4 Nahadian's mother, will have to endure the horror  
5 that she endured. And, I am so proud, so  
6 grateful to all of our colleagues for being a  
7 part of this historic initiative. Thank you very  
8 much.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

10 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito?

11 MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. All items  
13 on today's general order calendar were adopted by  
14 a vote of 49 in the affirmative, zero negative  
15 and zero abstentions, with the exception of  
16 Intro. 272-A, which was adopted by a vote of 48  
17 in the affirmative, one negative, and zero  
18 abstentions. And, Intro. 167-A, which was  
19 adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, one  
20 negative and zero abstentions. And, Intro. 171-  
21 A, which was adopted by a vote of 45 in the  
22 affirmative, one negative, and three abstentions.  
23 And, M-65, which was adopted by a vote of 45 in

1 the affirmative, four in the negative, and zero  
2 abstentions. The Land Use, the Revised Land Use  
3 Call-Ups vote is 49 in the affirmative, zero  
4 negative, and no abstentions. Introduction and  
5 reading of bills.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills are  
7 referred to Committees as indicated on the  
8 Agenda.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Discussion of  
10 Resolutions. We will now be voting on each... on  
11 each resolution respectively, beginning with  
12 Resolution 6, sponsored by Council Member,  
13 Crowley, a resolution calling upon the New York  
14 State Legislature to amend the New York State  
15 vehicle and traffic law to increase the criminal  
16 penalty for reckless driving, when serious  
17 physical injury or death of a person results from  
18 the reckless driving. Any members wishing to  
19 speak on Reso. 6? And, now for the vote. All in  
20 favor, say, aye. [group response] All opposed?  
21 Any abstentions? The ayes have it.

22 Reso. 51, a Resolution calling on the New  
23 York State Legislature to remedy several

1 deficiencies in the law, requiring leaving the  
2 scene of an accident, sponsored by Council  
3 Member, Crowley. Any member seeking to speak on  
4 this item? All in favor, say, aye. [group  
5 response] Any opposed? Any abstentions? The  
6 ayes have it.

7 Resolution 68-A, an amended resolution  
8 calling upon the New York State Legislature to  
9 pass and the Governor to sign, legislation  
10 increasing the penalty for driving on the  
11 sidewalk, sponsored by Council Member, Weprin.  
12 Any member speaking... wishing to speak on this  
13 item? Seeing none; all those in favor, say aye.  
14 [group response] All those opposed? Any  
15 abstentions?

16 Resolution 108, a resolution urging  
17 Congress to pass and the President to sign. HR...  
18 Resolution 103, resolution urging Congress to  
19 pass and the President to sign. HR-1726, and  
20 Senate 1174, to award a Congressional Gold Medal  
21 to the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment known as  
22 Borinqueneers, sponsored by...

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Borinqueneers...  
[pronouncing]

1 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Borinqueneers...  
2 [laughs] Borinqueneers [pronouncing], sponsored,  
3 obviously by the Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.  
4 [laughs] Anyone wishing to speak regarding the  
5 Borinqueneers? [laughs] Seeing none, all of those  
6 in favor, say aye. [group response] All of those  
7 opposed? Any abstentions? [**Spanish**]1:44:11

8 Resolution 117-A, an amended resolution  
9 calling upon the New York State Legislature to  
10 pass and the Governor to sign, legislation that  
11 would give New York City control over its own  
12 speed camera program... Please, may we have quite  
13 in the Chambers? Sponsored by Council Member,  
14 Vacca. Anyone wishing to speak on this  
15 resolution? Seeing none. All of those in favor,  
16 say aye. [group response] All of those opposed?  
17 Any abstentions? Ayes have it.

18 Resolution 118, a resolution calling upon  
19 the New York State Legislature to pass and the  
20 Governor to sign, legislation that would give New  
21 York City control over its own red light camera  
22 program, sponsored by Council Member, Van Bramer.  
23 Anyone wishing to speak on this item? Seeing

1 none. All of those in favor, say aye. [group  
2 response] All of those opposed? Any  
3 abstentions? The ayes have it.

4 Resolution 144, a resolution calling upon  
5 the New York State Legislature to pass... quite in  
6 the Chambers, please. Resolution 144.  
7 Resolution calling upon the New York State  
8 Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign,  
9 legislation that would make a violation of Hayley  
10 and Diego's Law a misdemeanor, sponsored by  
11 Council Member, Vaccca. Anyone wishing to speak  
12 on this item. Seeing none. All of those in  
13 favor, say aye. [group response] All of those  
14 opposed? Any abstentions? The ayes have it.

15 Resolution 200, a resolution calling upon  
16 the New York State Legislature to pass and the  
17 Governor to sign. Senate 4714 and Assembly 6974,  
18 legislation that would allow credit to members of  
19 the public, retirement systems of New York State  
20 from military service, sponsored by Council  
21 Member, Alrich. Any member wishing to speak on  
22 this item? Seeing none. All of those in favor,  
23 say aye. [group response] All of those opposed?



1 The ayes have it. General discussion. Council  
2 Member, Gibson.

3 GIBSON: Thank you, Madam Public  
4 Advocate. Please me allow me to clarify my  
5 position on Intro. 171-A. I mistakenly  
6 abstained, and I would like to vote aye on 171-A.  
7 Thank you very much.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Council  
9 Member, Cohen.

10 COHEN: Thank you, Public Advocate. I  
11 want to take this opportunity to ask my  
12 colleagues to consider joining Council Member,  
13 Rodriguez, Levine, and myself in supporting  
14 Resolution 251, which calls on the Borough of  
15 Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey to withdraw the  
16 variance and issue to the LG Corporation that  
17 will allow LG to build its new headquarters far  
18 above the tree line, above the Palisades, and  
19 calling on the LG Corporation to respect the  
20 integrity of the Palisades by voluntarily  
21 redesigning its proposal to comply with the  
22 current zoning law. This natural vista has  
23 survived...

1 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Excuse me, Council  
2 Member. May we please have quite in the Chamber?  
3 [announcement] Thank you. We apologize.

4 COHEN: Thank you. This natural vista  
5 has survived, as is, since the glaciers receded  
6 during the last Ice Age. This building will  
7 place a scar on the Palisades and open the door  
8 to additional development, which could destroy  
9 the Palisades as we know it. I encourage all of  
10 my colleagues to consider signing on to this  
11 Resolution. Thank you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Council  
13 Member, Dickens.

14 DICKENS: Thank you, Madam Public  
15 Advocate, and thank you, Madam Speaker. Today, I  
16 ask my fellow colleagues to sign on to Resolution  
17 1901 that I am co-sponsoring with Council  
18 Members, Mealy and King, that calls for the New  
19 York State Legislature to pass and the Governor  
20 to sign, um, the legislation 7119-A, of, uh,  
21 Assembly Member, Keith Wright, that would amend  
22 the Social Service Law in relation to prohibiting  
23 Work Experience Programs in New York. Currently,

1 the WEP is foreseen around 24,000 New Yorkers and  
2 as of May 2014, 11,450 New York City residents  
3 that receive public assistance, two participate  
4 in WEP. These participants are not considered  
5 employees, and are working without receiving a  
6 paycheck, social security credit, or eligibility  
7 for earned income tax credits. They are not  
8 receiving education nor training and rarely  
9 advance from their assigned positions. I ask  
10 that we sign on to this Resolution that aims to  
11 improve work activity options to public  
12 assistance recipients in New York, by prohibiting  
13 counties within the State from using WEP to  
14 fulfill tanuff[sic] work requirements. These  
15 participants need real job training programs so  
16 that they can become financially stable and  
17 provide for themselves and their families. I  
18 want to congratulate Council Member, Chin for  
19 passing on the income limits increase for SCRIE.  
20 And, I want to add to what Madam Speaker said  
21 about Maya Angelou. Dr. Angelou was a phenomenal  
22 woman. She was a literary voice of the people  
23 who... and was revered

1 globally because of her command and commitment to  
2 push for justice, education, and equality. As a  
3 black a woman, from a small town, but... who, she  
4 belonged to everywhere to everyone. She made  
5 Harlem her home, in my district, and paved the  
6 way for many. All her life experience has not  
7 hindered her, but allowed her to rise and become  
8 an icon for all. In her honor, I leave you with  
9 these short words to live by: People will forget  
10 what you said, they will forget what you did, but  
11 people will never forget how you made them feel.  
12 Today, I rise. Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Council  
14 Member, Miller.

15 MILLER: Wow. Good afternoon. And,  
16 thank you, Madam Public Advocate. This  
17 afternoon, I share with you a resolution that I  
18 hope my colleagues would join me in supporting.  
19 This resolution 258, calling on the Federal  
20 Government to fund the highway trust fund to  
21 optimum levels. I should also note that May is  
22 National Transportation Month. And, the timing  
23 of this Introduction is fitting. Also, I would

1 like to say, while it is called the Highway Trust  
2 Fund, this fund, this legislation will fund, will  
3 be an investment in transportation, highway and  
4 public transportation, and particularly, mass  
5 transit. It is more than a seat, it is a vital  
6 aspect of our essential industry's real estate,  
7 land use, and even education. And, those of us  
8 who have joined in supporting fairness for our  
9 school bus workers, will know that mass transit,  
10 here in the City of New York, is the lifeline and  
11 lifeblood of this City. The return on  
12 investments in transportation, be it highway or  
13 public transportation, through job creation, is  
14 like no other. We have been historically under-  
15 funded. It has been known as an assault on urban  
16 America, whether it's the policies of funding,  
17 the AV[sic]20, but I, for these reasons, I hope  
18 that you will sign on today as a sponsor under  
19 Resolution 258, calling for the Federal  
20 Government to fund on the future of mass  
21 transportation and to fund the Highway Trust Fund  
22 to optimum levels. Thank you.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Council

1 Member, Williams.

2 WILLIAMS: Thank you. My colleagues... uh,  
3 uh, I am asking my colleagues to sign on to two  
4 pieces of legislation. The first one is, Intro.  
5 373, a local law to amend administrative code of  
6 the City of New York in relation to require the  
7 Department of Homeless to provide community  
8 notification. The bill requires DHS notify the  
9 community board and the council member, and all  
10 parties originally noticed within ten days, when  
11 they change the scope of a shelter. This came to  
12 be because of a very large shelter being put in  
13 my district, in a place that I don't think it  
14 belongs. And, I'm not pushing back against the  
15 service, but a place that has one or two family  
16 homes, I think, a two hundred unit building,  
17 basically, is not a place, and we've been trying  
18 to get it downsized. And, the process of that  
19 happening, it went from a hundred and eighty  
20 units up to one ninety eight, without anybody  
21 being informed. And, this would change that so  
22 that people are informed of what's going on.  
23 Second, I'd like my colleagues to sign on to

1 Resolution 264, which I am very proud to be  
2 introducing with my colleague Council Member,  
3 Manchaca. The resolution is in support of  
4 Assembly bill 2736, Senate bill 1379, which is  
5 amend state law by prohibiting using possession  
6 of a condom as evidence in prostitution and  
7 related trials, prostitution related trials,  
8 hearings or proceedings. This came as an issue  
9 for me, while during a stop, question, and frisk  
10 trials, a couple of years ago, when I was moved  
11 by an LGBT community who talked about the  
12 profiling that was happening to them, and the use  
13 of carrying condoms being used to charge them  
14 with prostitution. This bill would take the  
15 NYPD's new policy a step further by prohibiting  
16 the possession of a condom from being received in  
17 evidence and trials. In all, I think the NYPD  
18 has gone a good step, but we want to codify, we  
19 want to push it further. Legitimate businesses  
20 have stopped, particularly, gay bars and  
21 establishments from providing condoms. In  
22 addition, it flies in the face of our health, sex  
23 education that we put forth as a

1 city, asking people to make sure that they  
2 practice safe sex, and then arresting people if  
3 they actually have condoms to do such. So,  
4 please I am proud to join with Council Member,  
5 Manchaca and I hope my colleagues will join.  
6 Lastly, I, too, will be remiss without mentioning  
7 the passing of Dr. Maya Angelou. And, when I  
8 heard the news, I was moved and saddened as if I  
9 had lost a great aunt. Whenever she spoke, the  
10 wisdom in her words were like sage getting  
11 information from ancestors. And, I am going to  
12 miss that, and I know the next generation will  
13 greatly benefit from her words. The saying: but  
14 still, like dust, I rise. To me, inspired me to  
15 know that no matter if you're trampled on, or how  
16 you feel if you're trampled on, you can still  
17 soar. Thank you.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Council  
19 Member, Manchaca.

20 MANCHACA: Thank you, Madam Public  
21 Advocate. And, I rise to speak on Resolution  
22 264. And, I join Council Member, Williams and  
23 other council members in introducing a bill, this



1 Resolution. And, I have been so eager to  
2 introduce this with our Council Member, Jumaane,  
3 for some time now. And, today, I proudly stand  
4 and congratulate the coalition. This is an  
5 extraordinary coalition of advocates, legal  
6 service providers, elected officials and police  
7 involved in the introduction. All sex workers  
8 are vulnerable where prostitution is illegal and  
9 should not have to face a heightened risk of  
10 infection and unplanned pregnancies because they  
11 are targeted for trying to reduce risk. People  
12 of color, immigrants, transgender and gender non-  
13 conforming New Yorkers have all reported being  
14 targeted by police, whether or not they are  
15 actually engaging in sex work, while police can  
16 no longer use condoms to back up the profiling of  
17 these individuals, and we thank the NYPD for  
18 moving on that. The limitations of the new  
19 police directive will continue to discourage  
20 these populations from carrying condoms. That is  
21 what makes this Resolution banning the use of  
22 condoms as evidence for all prostitution related  
23 offenses so important. I want to thank my staff

1 for their work on this resolution. It's been,  
2 again, a long time coming, and particularly, Ms.  
3 Lee Wellington, Mary Brook, Christina Bernardo,  
4 and Sal Arana [phonetic spellings] of the  
5 legislative division for his actual work on this  
6 as well. I look forward to working in  
7 partnership with my colleagues and the City  
8 Council and partnership with the administration  
9 to further promote condom access. And, I want to  
10 underscore that last piece, because what we've  
11 done in damage from this policy, or lack of  
12 passage on the State level, is going to require  
13 us all to go back to our districts on the grass...  
14 and use grassroots efforts to reverse the damages  
15 of this policy. Thank you.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Council  
17 Member, Van Bramer.

18 VAN BRAMER: Thank you very much, Madam  
19 Public Advocate. I want to speak to Intro. 371,  
20 which I am proud to introduce today along with  
21 our Transportation Committee Chair, Ydanis  
22 Rodriguez. The work of accomplishing Vision Zero  
23 is far from over, in fact, we are really just

1 beginning. And, Intro. 371, which I hope my  
2 colleagues will support, is a local law to  
3 establish civil penalties for leaving the scene  
4 of a collision. Too often, motorists flee the  
5 scene of collisions in an effort to avoid  
6 investigation and prosecution for any potential  
7 offenses. And, instances where a collision  
8 results in the injury of an individual, the act  
9 of fleeing the scene often delays emergency  
10 response, and could be the difference between  
11 life and death. Particularly, in the case of  
12 driving under the influence, there is a perverse  
13 incentive for a driver to flee the scene as the  
14 punishment for fleeing the scene are less than  
15 for staying, and potentially helping an injured  
16 person. So, it is really important that we  
17 continue the work of accomplishing Vision Zero,  
18 ending deaths, ending reckless driving, and  
19 holding drivers accountable, changing behaviors.  
20 This law, Intro. 371 will help do that. And, I  
21 want to thank our Transportation Committee Chair,  
22 Ydanis Rodriguez, not only for co-sponsoring this  
23 piece of legislation with me, but really

1 congratulate him for the historic day today on  
2 the seventeen pieces of Intros. and Resolutions.  
3 It is really historic. He has done a great job.  
4 Thank you very much, Madam Public Advocate.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Council  
6 Member, Kallos.

7 KALLOS: I rise. Today, I am pleased to  
8 be introducing three packages of bills that will  
9 promote transparency in government and save tax  
10 payers millions of dollars. The first, aimed at  
11 opening City government to New Yorkers will honor  
12 the principle that in the Twenty First Century,  
13 public equals online. And, information should  
14 only be a mouse-click away. The public has a  
15 right to government information. And, these  
16 three bills are E-notices, Introduction 367,  
17 Public Online Information Act, Intro. 368, and  
18 the City record online Intro. 363, which will  
19 help New Yorkers access it. The second, allows  
20 New Yorkers to better map our complex City. Two  
21 bills open maps, Intro. 364, and open GIS, Intro.  
22 362, will change the way that New Yorkers  
23 visualize and conceptualize our City. Both of

1 these are bills that are being co-sponsored by  
2 Ydanis Rodriguez and Council Member, Brad Lander.  
3 Thank you both for your leadership and support.  
4 With more and better data available to the  
5 public, bikers, pedestrians and drivers will gain  
6 tangible benefits, especially, in our Citywide  
7 quest to achieve Vision Zero. Finally, the  
8 third, moves us towards free and open source  
9 software, including mandating a government  
10 preference for open... free and open source  
11 software, Introduction 366, and establishing  
12 Civic Comments, Introduction 365. Of the code  
13 that will be shared between agencies and  
14 institutions, sharing the ingenuity of our City  
15 and our Nation's coders, will save money and  
16 create better programs. We all share the same  
17 goals of increasingly efficient and transparent  
18 city government. And, I look forward to working  
19 with all of you to make it happen. Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Council  
21 Member, Johnson is the last speaker.

22 JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Public  
23 Advocate. I rise, today, to urge my colleagues

1 to support Introduction 361, which has been  
2 introduced today by myself and Council Member,  
3 Steve Levin... [cross-talk]

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: ...Quite in the  
5 Chambers, please. Quite in the Chambers. We  
6 apologize Council Member.

7 JOHNSON: Thank you. This legislation was  
8 streamlined access to the Department of Homeless  
9 Service Shelters for those timing out of HRA  
10 Domestic Violence or Department of Youth and  
11 Community Development and Runaway Homeless Youth  
12 Shelters. Any applicant for temporary shelter,  
13 leaving HRA, or DYCD Shelter, because they  
14 exhausted the maximum length of stay or "aged  
15 out" would be deemed presumptively eligible, and  
16 would no longer be required to undergo the  
17 Department of Homeless Services eligibility  
18 termination process, prior to being admitted to  
19 the shelter system. At the end of their maximum,  
20 one hundred and eighty days stay, an emergency  
21 domestic violence shelter, families required to  
22 leave the shelter, regardless if they have a  
23 place to go. Fewer than eleven percent of

1 families leave with safe housing, and many are  
2 forced to enter at the DHS shelters. There are  
3 many reasons to support this. When this happens,  
4 they have to go to a DHS path intake center where  
5 people are subjected to a lengthy interview about  
6 their domestic violence, in front of their  
7 children, in order to secure safe placement. So,  
8 I ask my colleagues to support Introduction 361.  
9 I also, want to say that Council Member, Williams  
10 and Manchaca's Resolution 264 on condoms, I  
11 wholeheartedly support. New York City is  
12 spending tens of millions of dollars on giving  
13 out condoms, raving about the numbers we give  
14 out, and then the Police Department is  
15 prosecuting people for having condoms. It makes  
16 no sense. And, lastly, I want to take a moment  
17 and recognize Dr. Maya Angelou, how important she  
18 was for our country. In 2009, when marriage  
19 equality was being debated in New York State, she  
20 called State Senators that were on the fence, and  
21 she was quoted as saying this, I would ask every  
22 man and every woman who has had the blessing of  
23 having children, would

1 you deny your son or daughter the ecstasy of  
2 finding someone to love? Ms. Angelou said she  
3 believed that society made gay relationships hard  
4 enough without adding the burden of making  
5 marriage illegal. Rest in peace, Dr. Angelou.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. The amended  
7 vote on Intro. 171 was adopted by a vote of 46 in  
8 the affirmative, one negative and two  
9 abstentions. And, now, Speaker, Melissa Mark-  
10 Viverito to close.

11 MARK-VIVERITO: Now, thank you, Madam  
12 Public Advocate. And, I want to thank all my  
13 colleagues for the great work today. This is  
14 really a proud day. What we do each and every  
15 day out of this Council, and in our district  
16 offices, is to really make New York City a better  
17 place for all. And, the work that we did today  
18 proves that. So, at about 3:40 this meeting is  
19 adjourned. Thank you, Madam Public Advocate.

20 [gavel] PUBLIC ADVOCATE: We stand adjourned.

21

22

23



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. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.



Date 06/10/2014