

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

-----X

January 7, 2009  
Start: 12:00pm  
Recess: XX:XXpm

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
BETSY GOTBAUM  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Tony Avella  
Charles Barron  
Gale A. Brewer  
Mathieu Eugene  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Eric N. Gioia  
Robert Jackson  
Miguel Martinez  
Michael C. Nelson  
Annabel Palma  
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.  
Larry B. Seabrook  
Helen Sears  
Kendall Stewart  
James Vacca  
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.  
Albert Vann

## A P P E A R A N C E S

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

David I. Weprin  
Thomas White, Jr.  
Maria del Carmen Arroyo  
Maria Baez  
Helen D. Foster  
Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Vincent Ignizio  
G. Oliver Koppell  
Jessica S. Lappin  
James Sanders, Jr.  
James S. Oddo  
Joel Rivera  
Christine C. Quinn  
Elizabeth Crowley  
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Bill de Blasio  
Inez E. Dickens  
Simcha Felder  
Lewis A. Fidler  
James F. Gennaro  
Alan J. Gerson  
Letitia James  
Melinda R. Katz  
Darlene Mealy  
Rosie Mendez  
Diana Reyna  
David Yassky  
John C. Liu

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

Reverend Carolina

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,  
3 please. All rise. I pledge allegiance to the  
4 flag of the United States of America and to the  
5 republic for which it stands, one nation under  
6 God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

7 Roll call.

8 MALE VOICE: Arroyo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [No  
10 response.]

11 MALE VOICE: Avella.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Here.

13 MALE VOICE: Baez.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: [No  
15 response.]

16 MALE VOICE: Barron.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

18 MALE VOICE: Brewer.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

20 MALE VOICE: Comrie.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [No  
22 response.]

23 MALE VOICE: de Blasio.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER de BLASIO: [No  
25 response.]

1

2

MALE VOICE: Dickens.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [No

4

response.]

5

MALE VOICE: Dilan.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [No

7

response.]

8

MALE VOICE: Eugene.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

10

MALE VOICE: Felder.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: [No

12

response.]

13

MALE VOICE: Fidler.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [No

15

response.]

16

MALE VOICE: Foster.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [No

18

response.]

19

MALE VOICE: Garodnick.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

21

MALE VOICE: Gennaro.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [No

23

response.]

24

MALE VOICE: Gentile.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

1

2

MALE VOICE: Gerson.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: [No

4

response.]

5

MALE VOICE: Gioia.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Here.

7

MALE VOICE: Gonzalez.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [No

9

response.]

10

MALE VOICE: Ignizio.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [No

12

response.]

13

MALE VOICE: Jackson.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

15

MALE VOICE: James.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [No

17

response.]

18

MALE VOICE: Katz.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: [No

20

response.]

21

MALE VOICE: Koppell.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [No

23

response.]

24

MALE VOICE: Lappin.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: [No

1

2 response.]

3

MALE VOICE: Liu.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER LUI: [No response.]

5

MALE VOICE: Mark-Viverito.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [No

7

response.]

8

MALE VOICE: Martinez.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Here

10

MALE VOICE: Mealy.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [No

12

response.]

13

MALE VOICE: Mendez.

14

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,

15

please.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: [No

17

response.]

18

MALE VOICE: Nelson.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

20

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,

21

please.

22

MALE VOICE: Palma.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

24

MALE VOICE: Recchia.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.

1

MALE VOICE: Reyna.

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [No

4

response.]

5

MALE VOICE: Sanders.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [No

7

response.]

8

MALE VOICE: Seabrook.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.

10

MALE VOICE: Sears.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Here.

12

MALE VOICE: Stewart.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Present.

14

MALE VOICE: Vacca.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

16

MALE VOICE: Vallone.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

18

MALE VOICE: Vann

19

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

20

MALE VOICE: Weprin.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

22

MALE VOICE: White.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Here.

24

MALE VOICE: Yassky.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: [No



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

response.]

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,  
please.

MALE VOICE: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

MALE VOICE: Baez.

COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Here.

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,  
please.

MALE VOICE: Felder.

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: [No  
response.]

MALE VOICE: Foster.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.

MALE VOICE: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:  
Here.

MALE VOICE: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

MALE VOICE: Nelson

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

MALE VOICE: Koppell

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

MALE VOICE: Lappin.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

3

MALE VOICE: Sanders.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Here.

5

MALE VOICE: Oddo.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

7

MALE VOICE: Rivera.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

9

MALE VOICE: Speaker Quinn.

10

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

11

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: We have a

12

quorum. All rise for the Invocation to be given

13

by Reverend Carolina [phonetic].

14

REVEREND CAROLINA: Dear All Wise

15

God, we thank you for this great day, this new

16

year, the start of new promises. We pray over

17

this Council. We pray that your guiding hand will

18

lead them in the decisions of this City amidst

19

social, economic and social pressures, both

20

domestic and global. We pray for your guiding

21

hand. This is our prayer. Amen.

22

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council

23

Member Oddo.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yeah, I make

25

a motion to spread the Invocation in full upon the

1

2 record.

3

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

4

SPEAKER QUINN: If I could ask my--

5

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Madam

6

Speaker.

7

SPEAKER QUINN: -- colleagues to

8

please stand again for a moment; if we could get

9

quiet.

10

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet, quiet,

11

please.

12

SPEAKER QUINN: Happy New Year to

13

everyone. Sadly, on this, our first meeting of

14

2009, we need to remember a member of the Marines

15

from the Bronx who we lost on New Year's Day. On

16

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, Marine Lance Corporal Alberto

17

Fransicano [phonetic], 21, of Bedford Park in the

18

Bronx, in Council Member Koppell's district, was

19

killed by a land mine while supporting combat

20

operations in the Helman Province in Afghanistan.

21

He was assigned to the Third Battalion, Eighth

22

Marine Regiment based out of Fort Legeune in North

23

Carolina.

24

His grieving 21-year-old wife,

25

Cynthia, said "I still don't believe it. I think

1  
2 it's a mistake, a bad dream." Lance Corporal  
3 Fransicano's mother, Minevera [phonetic], said  
4 that "At least he was fighting for something. He  
5 died like a hero. I'm just praying for all the  
6 other soldiers."

7 Since the war began in 2001, 631  
8 soldiers have died in Afghanistan. The funeral  
9 for Lance Corporal Fransicano is scheduled for  
10 this Friday.

11 I'd also like to call on Council  
12 Member Brewer to say a few words about a dear  
13 friend to all of us in Manhattan, Jorde Reyes Mont  
14 Blanc [phonetic], the long time Chair of Community  
15 Board 9, who passed away in late December after  
16 our last Stated meeting. Council Member Brewer.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you  
18 very much, Madam Speaker. As we know, Jorde died  
19 over the holidays. I know he was really well-  
20 known to many of us, including Council Member  
21 Dickens and Council Member Jackson. He was not  
22 only Chair of Board 9 from 2004 to six, he was  
23 also a member for ten years previous to that.  
24 And, of course, he was involved during the  
25 Columbia expansion.

1  
2 He was a renaissance man, which is  
3 why I loved him. He was head of the Housing  
4 Development Fund Corporation, which are the co-ops  
5 that were previously City-owned tenant interim  
6 lease buildings. And, there are thousands of them  
7 in our City. He knew about energy efficiency,  
8 about technology. He was a professional in the  
9 maritime industry and he wrote regulations that  
10 exist today. He was a terrific reader. He spoke  
11 English, Spanish and Hebrew. And, he was blunt,  
12 which is why I really loved him. He was honest.  
13 He was brilliant. And, I think what was  
14 particularly exciting about the way he thought.  
15 He wrote an obituary about Stanley Michaels. It  
16 is perhaps the best written of anyone who spoke.  
17 Although he wasn't able to join us because he,  
18 himself, was sick, but never told us. He was a  
19 very private man. We didn't know about his son  
20 until his first grandchild was born.

21 I think there will be a memorial  
22 service is being planned at St. John the Divine.  
23 And, I want to thank you for allowing me to say a  
24 few words about our friend.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Absolutely. And,

1  
2 if we could just stand in a moment of silence for  
3 Jorde and for Lance Corporal Fransicano.

4 Thank you, Madam Public Advocate.

5 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: The option of  
6 the Minutes.

7 MALE VOICE: None.

8 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Messages and  
9 papers from the Mayor?

10 MALE VOICE: None.

11 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Communication  
12 from City, County and Borough Offices.

13 MALE VOICE: M-1263 and 1264.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: If I could ask for  
15 some quiet in the Chambers--

16 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,  
17 please.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: -- those two items  
19 have been received, ordered, printed and filed.  
20 If I could ask our Majority Leader, our Minority  
21 Leader and our Deputy Majority Leader to bring in  
22 the newest member of the City Council, Council  
23 Member Elizabeth Crowley. And, if I could now ask  
24 our Acting City Clerk and Clerk of the Council to  
25 swear in our newest Council Member and, I just

1  
2 want to make sure, and we'll hear from her in a  
3 minute, but all of our colleagues know that yes,  
4 everyone who is here today is actually in her  
5 family. They are related. It is not a small  
6 Irish family at all.

7 But, also, that Council Member  
8 Crowley continues a long tradition. She is the  
9 third member of her immediate family to be a  
10 member of the City Council. Her father, Walter,  
11 was a Council Member; her mother, who is with us  
12 today, succeeded him in the City Council. So,  
13 we're very glad you're keeping this tradition  
14 going.

15 And, I just want to give a shout  
16 out to our friends from the Painters Union, Jack  
17 Kittle [phonetic] finally made good in the City of  
18 New York. So, thank you all for being with us.  
19 And now, if we could please swear our newest  
20 Council Member in. There you go, Mike.

21 MIKE: Please raise your right  
22 hand. I--

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I--

24 MIKE: -- Elizabeth Crowley--

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: --

1

2 Elizabeth Crowley--

3 MIKE: -- do solemnly swear--

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: -- do  
5 solemnly swear--6 MIKE: -- that I will support the  
7 Constitution of the United States of America--8 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: -- that I  
9 will support the Constitution of the United States  
10 of America--11 MIKE: -- and the Constitution of  
12 the State of New York--13 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: -- and the  
14 Constitution of the State of New York--15 MIKE: -- and the Charter of the  
16 City of New York--17 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: -- and the  
18 Charter of the City of New York--19 MIKE: -- and that I will  
20 faithfully discharge the duties of--21 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: --and I  
22 will faithfully discharge the duties of--23 MIKE: -- the office of Council  
24 Member from the 30<sup>th</sup> District--

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: -- the



1

2 office of Council Member from the 30<sup>th</sup> District--

3 MIKE: -- in the City of New York--

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: -- in the  
5 City of New York--

6 MIKE: -- according to the best of  
7 my ability.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: --  
9 according to the best of my ability.

10 MIKE: Congratulations.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: And, if we could  
13 ask our newest colleague to say a few words.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: It's quite  
15 an opportunity, an honor, to serve here in these  
16 Chambers with so many distinguished colleagues.  
17 I'm so proud to represent the neighborhoods of  
18 Maspeth, Middle Village, Glendale, Ridgewood,  
19 Richmond Hill and Woodhaven here in the City  
20 Council in these same Chambers that both my  
21 parents, the late Walter, and my mother, Mary  
22 Crowley, had the opportunity to serve in.

23 Now, I come from a big family. My  
24 parents had 15 children. And, many of them are  
25 here today with me and many of our grandchildren,

1  
2 my mother's grandchildren, nieces and nephews and  
3 my two sons, Dennis and Owen; two boys who give me  
4 the inspiration every day to work hard for what's  
5 right for the community.

6 I want to just say, you know, I  
7 probably, when my parents were in the City  
8 Council, I probably wouldn't have been the one  
9 they thought could be here today. However, you  
10 know, it was hard getting here. It was uphill  
11 battle with all the elections. And, if you think  
12 that was hard, you had to imagine what it was like  
13 to grow up in the Crowley family at the dinner  
14 table. And so, it was hard to get words in  
15 edgewise, but it's definitely prepared me for this  
16 opportunity. And so, I know what it's like to  
17 have a big family and the big family that's here  
18 today. And, I know sometimes it could be a little  
19 dysfunctional. No.

20 But, at the end of the day, we work  
21 hard together to do what's right for the people of  
22 our community, people of the City. And, I know we  
23 have a tough year ahead of us. The economy isn't  
24 the best. But, I know we'll work hard together  
25 for our seniors, for our kids, for our

1

2 constituents. So, thank you for your support.

3 And, I look forward to our good work together.

4 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,

5 please.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: We're going to

7 resume the meeting.

8 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Okay, I will.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: If I could ask for  
10 a little quiet, please.

11 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: I will.

12 Quiet, please. Madam Speaker, I'm just going to  
13 call on Council Member-- oh.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Please. Exactly.

15 MALE VOICE: M--

16 SPEAKER QUINN: So, why don't we go  
17 to M-1265, please?

18 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Thank you.

19 MALE VOICE: M-1265.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, privileges  
21 and elections.

22 MALE VOICE: M-1266.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, privileges  
24 and elections.

25 MALE VOICE: M-1267 to M-1279, Bay

1

2 Station License applications.

3 SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

4 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Petitions and  
5 communications.

6 MALE VOICE: M-1280, Resignation of  
7 Council Member Joseph Addabbo, Jr.

8 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,  
9 please. You can't hear him.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: If we can get a  
11 little quiet please. Received, ordered, printed  
12 and filed.

13 MALE VOICE: M-1280--

14 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,  
15 please.

16 MALE VOICE: M-1281, Resignation,  
17 Council Member Michael E. McMahon.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered,  
19 printed and filed. And, thank goodness, now that  
20 McMahon is gone, we have a Crowley, 'cause  
21 otherwise the Irish Caucus was just me. So, at  
22 least we're back to two in the Irish Caucus. All  
23 right. Received, ordered, printed and filed.  
24 Miquel pointed that out. Thank you.

25 MALE VOICE: M-1282, Resignation,

1

2 Council Member Hiram Monserrate.

3 SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered,  
4 printed and filed.

5 MALE VOICE: M-1283.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered,  
7 printed and filed.

8 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council  
9 Member Katz.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: No, no, no. Let's  
11 call the Land Use call-ups--

12 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: You want to  
13 call Land Use--

14 SPEAKER QUINN: -- first.

15 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: -- call-ups  
16 first.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Yeah, she'll vote  
18 on Land Use call-ups.

19 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Okay. Okay.  
20 Land Use call-ups.

21 MALE VOICE: M-1284 through M-1287.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: All of those items  
23 should please be coupled on a Land Use call-up,  
24 please. And, we'll have a roll call on the  
25 coupled Land Use call-ups, please.

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

MALE VOICE: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Avella.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Baez.

COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

MALE VOICE: de Blasio.

COUNCIL MEMBER de BLASIO: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Dilan.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [No

response.]

MALE VOICE: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Felder.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

3

MALE VOICE: Fidler.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

5

MALE VOICE: Foster.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

7

MALE VOICE: Garodnick.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

9

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,

10

please.

11

MALE VOICE: Gennaro.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

13

MALE VOICE: Gentile.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

15

MALE VOICE: Gerson.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Aye.

17

MALE VOICE: Gioia.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Yes.

19

MALE VOICE: Gonzalez.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [No

21

response]

22

MALE VOICE: Ignizio.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

24

MALE VOICE: Jackson.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Yes.

1

MALE VOICE: James.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Yes.

3

MALE VOICE: Katz.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: I vote aye on  
all Land Use call-ups and ask unanimous consent to  
vote aye on all general order calendars and  
resolutions.

5

6

7

8

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

9

10

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Yes? Thank

11

you.

12

MALE VOICE: Koppell.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

14

MALE VOICE: Lappin.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

16

MALE VOICE: Liu.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: [No response]

18

MALE VOICE: Mark-Viverito.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

20

MALE VOICE: Martinez.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Aye.

22

MALE VOICE: Mealy.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

24

MALE VOICE: Mendez.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.



1  
2 MALE VOICE: Nelson.  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.  
4 MALE VOICE: Palma.  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.  
6 MALE VOICE: Recchia.  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.  
8 MALE VOICE: Reyna.  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.  
10 MALE VOICE: Sanders.  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.  
12 MALE VOICE: Seabrook.  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye.  
14 MALE VOICE: Sears.  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.  
16 MALE VOICE: Stewart.  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Aye.  
18 MALE VOICE: Vacca.  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.  
20 MALE VOICE: Vallone.  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.  
22 MALE VOICE: Vann.  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.  
24 MALE VOICE: Weprin.  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

1

MALE VOICE: White.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Aye.

3

MALE VOICE: Yassky.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Aye.

5

MALE VOICE: Oddo.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

7

MALE VOICE: Rivera.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

9

MALE VOICE: Speaker Quinn.

10

SPEAKER QUINN: Yes.

11

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Today's Land

12

Use call-ups were adopted by a vote of 45 in the  
affirmative and zero negative. Communication from  
the Speaker.

13

14

15

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. We're

16

voting today on Intro 516-A, a piece of

17

legislation introduced by Council Member Peter

18

Vallone, the Chair of our Public Safety Committee.

19

I want to thank Rose Previte, who worked on this

20

bill, Oona Peterson and Alix Pustilnik and Rob

21

Neuman [phonetic], all who worked on this piece of

22

legislation.

23

This bill will require that the

24

police department expand the documentation and the

25

1  
2 reporting that they conduct as it relates to  
3 firearms discharge in the City of New York.  
4 Through the work and communications of our Public  
5 Safety Committee, we came to understand that  
6 presently the police department does keep data  
7 whenever a member of the service discharges their  
8 weapons.

9                   But, that data, quite frankly, up  
10 until today, has not been sufficient. In fact,  
11 the data that the department kept when a dog was  
12 shot in the City of New York was more detailed  
13 than when a human being was shot or shot at. For  
14 example, presently before this law, when a dog was  
15 shot or shot at, you would have to keep  
16 information about the breed of the dog and other  
17 information about the dog. You could easily go  
18 online and see of the thirty dogs that were shot  
19 last year, what type of dogs they were.

20                   CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,  
21 please.

22                   SPEAKER QUINN: No similar data  
23 regarding the age, the race or the gender of human  
24 beings who were shot or shot at by police officers  
25 was kept by the police department.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Now, we are very lucky to be protected on a daily basis by the best police department in the country, if not in the world. We are also very lucky that that police department has seen the number of times that they have discharged their weapons in the last decade decrease significantly. But, even so, we still have an obligation as the entity that is charged with oversight of the police department to find ways that they can do their job even better.

And, this law will make sure that we, as the Council, receive data on a yearly basis, precinct by precinct, of discharge of firearms, borough by borough; data about the race, gender and age of those who have been shot at or shot. Looking at that data, working with our oversight functions with the police department will help us improve the work of the police department even further and hopefully, even further decrease the time that firearms are discharged in our City because, obviously, we only want that to occur when it absolutely has to.

In addition to the staff of the Council that I thanked, I want to thank

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

Chairperson Vallone for his vigorous oversight of the police department and his vigorous review of the reporting that led to this piece of legislation. I also want to thank the staff in the police department, particularly Sue Patino [phonetic], who worked very, very long and hard with us on this bill and the staff of the Mayor's Office of Legislative Affairs. I think it speaks volumes about when the Council and the Mayor and the police department can expand yearly public reporting of firearms discharge and do it together in a non-adversarial manner. And, I want to thank all of us, everyone who has worked on this legislation.

Let me call on the Chair of our Committee, Peter Vallone, who really helped focus us on this need and get us to the point of passing this law today.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you. Charles Barron just congratulated me. So now, I have to rethink my support for my own bill. He's rethinking his support, too? But, no, it is a very good bill. It continues in our City Council tradition of requesting and demanding information

1  
2 from the police department be made public and  
3 getting that done. We put crime in parks. We put  
4 that information out there. Crime in schools, we  
5 got that information out there. And now, we'll  
6 get information regarding every incident when a  
7 police officer discharges their weapon. An  
8 informed public is a safe public. This will allow  
9 us, as a Council, to do oversight as we are  
10 mandated to do. And, I congratulate my staff,  
11 especially Rose Nuna [phonetic] and everyone  
12 involved in this. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

13                   SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
14 much, Chairperson Vallone. I just, before  
15 concluding Speaker's time, I want to-- I singled  
16 out one of our special guests before, Jack Kittle  
17 of the Painters Union. But, I also want to  
18 recognize Joe Ramaglia, who's the business manager  
19 for District Council 9 of the Painters and Bill  
20 Candelori, who's the General Vice President for  
21 the Eastern Region. So, we have the biggest of  
22 the big shots of the Painters with us today. If  
23 they could be stand and be recognized as well as  
24 our good friend, Jack Kittle. Gary, move out of  
25 the way so we can see the Painters. Move out of

1  
2 the way. Thank you all very, very much for all of  
3 your work on behalf of the City. And, that  
4 concludes communications from the Speaker. I just  
5 want to thank Chairperson Reyna for the four  
6 appointments that she took up in the Rules  
7 Committee today. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: There's no  
9 one for discussion of general orders? Oh, excuse  
10 me, Council Member Jackson. Sorry.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,  
12 Public Advocate. I rise today in support of  
13 preconsidered Reso 516-A, introduced by--

14 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could just  
15 get a little quiet in the Chambers for Council  
16 Member Jackson. Thank you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: --  
18 introduced by Peter Vallone, Jr., our colleague,  
19 the Chair of the Public Safety Committee. In  
20 fact, there was a hearing on that yesterday. And,  
21 I had a discussion with him and the counsel to the  
22 Committee. And, he said gee whiz, you actually  
23 really read all of this stuff. And, I said  
24 absolutely. This is extremely important to get  
25 statistics as to--

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,  
3 please.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: -- as to  
5 the number of shootings and whether or not the  
6 individual was black, white, green or yellow, the  
7 age of the individual, the gender of the  
8 individual. And, as I said today, in the pre-  
9 stated press conference, in communities of color,  
10 it is extremely important that we have that  
11 information because it seems as though that many  
12 of the individuals that are shot at or killed are  
13 people of color.

14 And so, I think that this is very  
15 important, broken down by precincts and what have  
16 you, so we can look at the information to analyze  
17 it in order to improve the situation. And, I hope  
18 and pray that 2009 or 2010, there are no shootings  
19 whatsoever. But, realistically, we know that's  
20 not going to happen. So, having this information  
21 will help us to analyze and hope to improve the  
22 situation overall to make our City a safer place.  
23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Seeing nobody  
25 else, report of special committees.



1

MALE VOICE: None.

2

3

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Reports of  
standing committees.

4

5

MALE VOICE: Report of the  
Committee on Finance, preconsidered Intro 909.

6

7

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet.

8

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
orders with a message of necessity, please.

9

10

MALE VOICE: Preconsidered Intro

11

910.

12

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
orders, also with a message of necessity.

13

14

MALE VOICE: Report of the  
Committee on Public Safety, Intro 516-A, reports  
concerning firearms discharge.

15

16

17

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
on general orders.

18

19

MALE VOICE: Report of the  
Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections,  
preconsidered Reso 1744 approving membership  
changes to certain committees.

20

21

22

23

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
orders.

24

25

MALE VOICE: M-1253 and Reso 1775,

1

2 approving the reappointment of Lauvienska--

3

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,

4

please.

5

MALE VOICE: -- Polanco, Taxi and

6

Limousine Commission.

7

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general

8

orders.

9

MALE VOICE: M-1253 and Reso 1776--

10

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: I give up.

11

SPEAKER QUINN: Go ahead. That's

12

way out of order.

13

MALE VOICE: M-1253 and Reso 1776,

14

approving the reappointment of Elias Arout, Taxi

15

and Limousine Commission.

16

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general

17

orders.

18

MALE VOICE: M-1255 and Reso 1777,

19

approving the reappointment of Gregory Soumas, New

20

York County Commissioner of Elections.

21

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general

22

orders.

23

MALE VOICE: M-1256 and Reso 1778,

24

approving the reappointment of Juan Carlos

25

Polanco, Bronx County Commissioner of Elections.

1  
2 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
3 orders.

4 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: General order  
5 calendar.

6 MALE VOICE: Resolution appointing  
7 various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
9 orders. And, at this point, I ask for a roll call  
10 on all the items that have been, in a semi-  
11 allergic way, coupled on the general order  
12 calendar, please.

13 MALE VOICE: Arroyo.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye - - .

15 MALE VOICE: Avella.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye.

17 MALE VOICE: Baez.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Aye.

19 MALE VOICE: Barron.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: May I be  
21 excused to explain my vote, Madam?

22 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I just  
24 wanted to say to Council Member Peter Vallone, the  
25 reason why I came over to congratulate you is

1

2

because you look like you were going into

3

depression because you had to hold the police

4

accountable. So, I wanted to cheer you up and let

5

you know that you did a good thing this time and--

6

excuse me, you're out of order. You're out of

7

order, both of you.

8

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: [Crosstalk]

9

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Happy New

10

Year everybody. And, I just wanted to say that

11

this is the right thing to do. And, that, for the

12

record, let the record read that Councilman

13

Charles Barron, in the New Year, the very first

14

meeting, I'm saying aye on all. Just want to let

15

you know that. Thank you very much.

16

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you

18

very much.

19

MALE VOICE: Brewer.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye

21

and a particular shout out for the good work of

22

Greg Soumas as a Board of Elections member. Thank

23

you.

24

MALE VOICE: Comrie.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

1

2

MALE VOICE: Crowley.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on

4

all.

5

MALE VOICE: de Blasio.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER de BLASIO: Aye on

7

all.

8

MALE VOICE: Dickens.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye on

10

all.

11

MALE VOICE: Dilan.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [No

13

response.]

14

MALE VOICE: Eugene.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye on all.

16

MALE VOICE: Felder.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

18

MALE VOICE: Fidler.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yes.

20

MALE VOICE: Foster.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

22

MALE VOICE: Garodnick.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

24

MALE VOICE: Gennaro.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

1

MALE VOICE: Gentile.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

3

MALE VOICE: Gerson.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Aye on all.

5

MALE VOICE: Gioia.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Yes on all.

7

MALE VOICE: Ignizio.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Just like

9

to say I appreciate the kind - - Charles Barron

10

and Happy New Year to all my colleagues. And, I

11

vote aye on all.

12

MALE VOICE: Jackson.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

14

all.

15

MALE VOICE: James.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye on all.

17

MALE VOICE: Koppell.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [No

19

response.]

20

MALE VOICE: Lappin.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye on all.

22

MALE VOICE: Mark-Viverito.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

24

MALE VOICE: Martinez.

25

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Aye on

3

all.

4

MALE VOICE: Mealy.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Can I

6

explain my vote?

7

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I would like

9

to publicly say Peter Vallone, thank you for that

10

legislation that you just put through. And, I

11

want to publicly say thank you for all the prayers

12

and the well wishes while I was out and aye on

13

all. Thank you. And, Happy New Year.

14

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Thank you.

15

MALE VOICE: Koppell

16

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

17

MALE VOICE: Mendez.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

19

And, I want to give a special shout out to my

20

goddaughter, Elanya Rodriguez, who's here today.

21

And, I don't know, she had to find a seat. She's

22

somewhere back there. And, I also want to

23

congratulate my sister, Tish James, and my

24

brother, Charles Barron, for being number one and

25

two, respectively, on the Human Rights Report Card

1  
2 in this City Council. So, congratulations to you  
3 both.

4 MALE VOICE: Nelson.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: I vote aye  
6 on all. And, I'd like to thank Chris, Chuck,  
7 Ramone and the very caring staff and all of my  
8 colleagues in the Council for helping to make an  
9 extremely difficult period somewhat less--

10 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,  
11 please.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: -- somewhat  
13 less difficult. Thank you and Happy New Year to  
14 all of you. Thank you.

15 MALE VOICE: Palma.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye on all.

17 MALE VOICE: Recchia.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on  
19 all.

20 MALE VOICE: Reyna.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

22 MALE VOICE: Sanders.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye on  
24 all. And, I, too, would like to thank the  
25 Council, as a whole, and the Speaker, in



1  
2 particular, and everybody for their prayers on my  
3 recovery. Aye on all.

4 MALE VOICE: Seabrook.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye on  
6 all.

7 MALE VOICE: Sears.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

9 MALE VOICE: Stewart.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Aye on  
11 all.

12 MALE VOICE: Vacca.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

14 MALE VOICE: Vallone.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: My only  
16 clarification of what Robert Jackson said is I've  
17 never used the term gee whiz in my entire life.  
18 But, other than that, I vote aye on all.

19 MALE VOICE: Vann.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

21 MALE VOICE: Weprin.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

23 MALE VOICE: White.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Aye on all.

25 MALE VOICE: Yassky.

1

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Aye.

2

3

MALE VOICE: Oddo.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Council

5

Member Vallone, just be grateful it was an um and

6

you know. I vote aye on all.

7

MALE VOICE: Rivera.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

9

MALE VOICE: Speaker Quinn.

10

SPEAKER QUINN: Aye.

11

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: All items on

12

today's general order calendar were adopted by a

13

vote of 45 in the affirmative, zero negative and

14

zero abstentions. Introduction reading of bills.

15

SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are

16

referred to Committees as indicated on the agenda.

17

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Discussion of

18

resolutions. There are no resolution. None.

19

General discussion. Council Member Jackson.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I yield to

21

Larry.

22

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: You yield to

23

who?

24

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I yield to

25

Larry first.

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Larry? Oh,  
3 Larry-- Council Member Seabrook.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Thank  
5 you, Madam Public Advocate. I rise today with a  
6 resolution that I'm requesting your support and  
7 urging the State Legislature to adopt and pass the  
8 minority and women-owned business provisions that  
9 the State has in terms of its set-aside programs.  
10 As you know, as we face problems within the  
11 economy, one of the things that we look at in  
12 terms of minority and women-owned businesses and  
13 their participation. It is important that this  
14 legislation be passed and we're urging the  
15 Governor to sign the Senate Bill 8575 and 11672,  
16 which would authorize all of the public  
17 subdivisions to deal with minority and women-owned  
18 contractors. As this state is going to be the  
19 recipient of dollars that will help to stimulate  
20 this economy, one of the ways that can be helpful  
21 in terms of dealing with a 50% minority  
22 unemployment rate in this City is by allowing  
23 minority businesses to be a part of the  
24 contracting of businesses and services that this  
25 City will be able to reap and allow the

1

2

participation of those who are unemployed.

3

4

5

6

7

8

So, I would urge my colleagues the importance of this because federal legislation is already in effect. But, it's important that we look and deal with and urging the Governor to sign this bill that would allow minority and women-owned participation. Thank you very much.

9

10

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council Member Mealy.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I rise again to thank the Speaker, again, and your whole staff during my absence. And, I want to ask all my colleagues to sign on to a local law to amend the Administrative Code of New York in relation to street cleaning and collection of removal of recyclable material and refuse at street events.

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

As a community organizer, I, myself, was a black-- President of a non-black association. And, when we have our big events, a lot of recyclable things are left. And, we are asking now that even though all black association at special events do clean up behind them. But, all of them do not. And, we are passing-- we putting this law before you to have a penalty if

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

you do not recycle. We thinking on cleaning up this economy-- I'm sorry, not the economy, the environmental, so we are asking that you sign on to this legislation. And, most organization are responsible. And, they do clean up after each event. But, we must remember to be responsible stewards of this planet. And, I encourage you to join me in signing on my legislation, Intro 908. Thank you.

And, I would like to introduce my new Chief of Staff, Kathleen McCadden [phonetic]. Could you please stand. And, please, colleagues, this is a great legislation. Could you please sign on? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council Member Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate, my colleagues. I rise this afternoon to make you aware of the Wall Street Project being sponsored by Rainbow PUSH. It's in New York City from January 13<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>. And, this year's theme is Fallout from the Bailout, a New Day in Washington. And, I do have the letter. And, there's a full agenda online. I'd be glad to

1

2 share it with you if you're interested.

3 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,  
4 please.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: It's going  
6 to be held-- it's normally held at the Sheraton on  
7 Seventh Avenue. So, if you're interested in  
8 knowing about that, the Wall Street Project, from  
9 January 13<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of this year--

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Can we get a little  
11 quiet, please. Sorry, Council Member Jackson.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: -- just  
13 come and talk to me. I'll give you a copy of it.

14 But, also, I have three interns  
15 here. They're helping out in our office a lot,  
16 John, Anthony and Theo. And, today's Theo's  
17 birthday. He turns 24 today. Congratulations,  
18 Theo. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council  
20 Member Liu, would you like to vote, please?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Madam Public  
22 Advocate, I request unanimous consent to vote aye  
23 on all matters on the general order calendar and  
24 all Land Use call-ups.

25 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: I vote aye.

3

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council

4

Member Fidler.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you.

6

And, seeing Council Member Crowley's large and

7

lovely family here and having just come through

8

the holidays, which is for all of us a time of

9

both family and compassion and charity for the

10

less fortunate, I want to, once again, remind all

11

of my colleagues and everyone here that tonight,

12

3,000 children will be homeless on the streets in

13

the City of New York; 1,800 of whom will literally

14

be sleeping outside; 180 of whom spent last night

15

either as a sex client or with a sex worker. And,

16

as we go through the difficult year that we have

17

ahead of us, I just want each and every one of you

18

to keep them not only in your prayers, but your

19

thoughts and deliberations. Thank you.

20

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council

21

Member Brewer.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you.

23

I rise because over the holidays, the Federal

24

government, NTIA, National part of the Commerce

25

Department, and the FCC, the Federal

1  
2 Communications, decided to pull the opportunity  
3 for people to apply for converter boxes to go from  
4 analog to digital for those television watchers  
5 who have rabbit ears. This impacts seniors and  
6 particularly those who are not necessarily  
7 English-speaking and immigrants. And, I have been  
8 sort of a champion on pushing this issue to get  
9 people to [crosstalk]--

10 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,  
11 please.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: -- and  
13 apply for a coupon, then go to the store, get the  
14 converter box and be able to continue to have the  
15 outside world at their doorstep in their  
16 apartments. So, I, personally, called over this  
17 past week and was told that I would be put on a  
18 waiting list and that there were no more coupons  
19 available 'cause \$1.3 billion had run out.

20 I just bring this to everyone's  
21 attention. We are doing a press conference  
22 tomorrow. If you're interested, let us know. I  
23 think that we should be pushing the FCC and the  
24 Federal government to make sure that the  
25 opportunity is there for lower-cost converter



1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

boxes for our population that is in need of television to be continued and to be as free as possible. There are many other issues. But, that's the shorter version. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council Member Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I rise to thank the members of the Bronx Delegation to the City Council because today all of us signed on to a letter to the Mayor asking that the Ladder Company on City Island not be closed because it saved life yesterday.

We had a terrible fire on City Island yesterday, as many of you may know. And, the Ladder Company that saved lives yesterday is due to be closed on January 17<sup>th</sup>. That Ladder Company responded in one minute. The next nearest Ladder Company, by the Fire Department's own admission, will take ten minutes. We are talking about people, their health and their actual life.

I hope that this Administration reconsiders its position. We know there is a fiscal crisis. But, the fiscal crisis cannot be a reason to close a needed facility like a Ladder

1  
2 company. This was a wood frame structure. It  
3 went up at four in the morning. Ten minutes is  
4 the minimal time an off-Island company will take  
5 to get to City Island. With traffic and other  
6 conditions, such as the drawbridges that lead to  
7 City Island being up, we could be talking 20  
8 minutes response time for a Ladder Company. Well,  
9 I'm sorry, that's not good for the City that I  
10 live in. And, we realize that City Island is not  
11 just a residential facility, but it is a tourist  
12 attraction for hundreds of thousands of people  
13 every summer. This cut is ill-advised and this  
14 cut can result in loss of life. There is still  
15 time. I thank the delegation and the Borough for  
16 sticking together on this item because we all know  
17 the importance of this issue. And, I hope that  
18 sense prevails in the days ahead. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council  
20 Member Felder.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Thank you,  
22 Madam Public Advocate. I'd like to ask my  
23 colleagues to look into signing on to Intro Number  
24 907, otherwise known as the Gotcha Bill. And,  
25 it's called that because we have constituents

1  
2 continuously coming into our offices complaining  
3 that they've gotten a summons a minute after the  
4 parking regulations expire; literally. And, that  
5 means that there are agents out there that are  
6 vultures and that wait 'til it clicks, 'til-- if  
7 it's 11 o'clock, 11:01 they're waiting to hand out  
8 those summonses.

9           This bill would require a five-  
10 minute grace period so that if somebody came out  
11 within five minutes, they would not be issued a  
12 summons when the signage by the City declares that  
13 it's over at a certain hour, or with Muni meters  
14 for the same matter. Obviously, other meters,  
15 there's no way for us to do it mechanically to be  
16 able to determine so even though it's done the  
17 same way there. So, I encourage my colleagues to  
18 sign on. This is sending a message, in some ways  
19 more important than the summons itself, but it's a  
20 message to agents and to the City that tickets are  
21 to be given to encourage compliance and not to be  
22 used as a tool to harass homeowners in the City.  
23 You're invited to join Council Member Vacca, who's  
24 the co-sponsor, and myself on Sunday for a press  
25 conference on this issue at 11 o'clock on the

1

2 steps of City Hall. Thank you.

3

4

5

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council  
Member Seabrook, you wanted to make an  
announcement.

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Thank you  
very much, Madam Public Advocate. Just as a  
reminder, as you know the birthday celebration of  
a life and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King,  
Jr., that is sponsored by Speaker Christine Quinn,  
myself, Council Member Inez Dickens and the Black  
and Latino and Asian Caucus. We're urging all  
members to please join us on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>,  
at 5:30 p.m. in celebration of a life and legacy  
of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. So, if  
you could be here, it would certainly be  
appreciative. And, we want you there.

20

21

22

23

24

25

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council  
Member James.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: To Council  
Member Crowley, congratulations. Three times is  
certainly a charm. And, your efforts are  
basically a lesson to the world that you should  
not otherwise abandon your dream. When we  
reconvene later in this month, we would have

1  
2 embarked upon witnessing history; the inauguration  
3 of the first President of color in these United  
4 States. I salute President-elect Barack Obama,  
5 the first family, a man of great intellect, who  
6 will restore honor and dignity in our standing  
7 across the globe. I also look forward to working  
8 with the Obama Administration and this  
9 Administration as we package a stimulus package to  
10 address the high rate of unemployment in the City  
11 of New York, the high number of foreclosures, the  
12 high rate of poverty and the despair across this  
13 City. And, as we celebrate the birth, the  
14 birthday of the King, Dr. Martin Luther King, I  
15 pray for peace in the Middle East and peace across  
16 the globe. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council  
18 Member Gerson.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Thank you,  
20 Madam Public Advocate. I also rise to oppose the  
21 ill-conceived and dangerous closures of Ladder  
22 companies and other fire companies in different  
23 parts of our City. Council Member Vacca, as one  
24 who has spent many a fine moment on City Island, I  
25 know it's absolutely crazy to leave that Island

1  
2 without the companies which protect it. And, that  
3 is not just a Bronx issue. But, all of us  
4 throughout the City must support retention of fire  
5 services.

6 My colleagues, it is also crazy to  
7 eliminate one of the Ladders companies from a 12-  
8 hours-- to eliminate a 12-hour shift of one of the  
9 Ladder companies that responded on 9/11 to Ground  
10 Zero and which is currently designated to serve  
11 the Wall Street and Lower Manhattan areas, which  
12 include some of our City's most vulnerable  
13 security targets and in an area which is  
14 undergoing massive construction, which will make  
15 it impossible for the other fire companies to  
16 arrive at a call without undue delay.

17 It is also crazy to eliminate, in  
18 its entirety as proposed, fire protection from  
19 Governor's Island, just at the time when we are  
20 undertaking building demolition and reconstruction  
21 and the expansion of visitation on Governor's  
22 Island. We must not play Russian Roulette with  
23 the fire safety of New Yorkers in any part of the  
24 City. We must join together and work with the  
25 Chair of our Fire Committee--

1

2

SPEAKER QUINN: Can we get--

3

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: -- Miguel

4

Martinez--

5

SPEAKER QUINN: -- excuse me, some-

6

- Council Member Gerson, just one second. We'll

7

add some time back to the clock for you. But, if

8

we can get some quiet in the Chambers, you can't

9

even hear Council Member Gerson.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Thank you,

11

Madam Speaker. And, I just urge all of us, in

12

conclusion, to band together with the leadership

13

of Miguel Martinez and Speaker Quinn to oppose

14

these ill-advised and dangerous, very, very

15

dangerous cutbacks in fire protection. Thank you.

16

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council

17

Member Mark-Viverito.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

19

Thank you. I would like to ask my colleagues to

20

join us, and I want to thank the Speaker and

21

Council Members, in particular, Martinez, Reyna,

22

and all those have expressed interest, on a

23

meeting this Saturday regarding-- for families of

24

immigrants. This is a campaign that has been

25

initiated by Congressman Gutierrez in Chicago.

1  
2 It's called the Family Unity Campaign. And, as we  
3 witness this historic inauguration later this  
4 month, to work with the new Administration to  
5 really talk about changing our immigration  
6 policies in this country. Our deportation-only  
7 policies are ripping families apart. And, they  
8 need to be revised. And, we all know that.

9           So, on Saturday, we're convening on  
10 East 125<sup>th</sup> Street, at a church, and ask families of  
11 immigrants and all those concerned to change our  
12 immigration laws to come together and demand and  
13 sign petitions that will be handed over by the  
14 Congressional Hispanic Caucus to the new President  
15 of our country to demand that we change and that  
16 he honor his commitment, as he stated in the  
17 campaign, that in the first 100 days, he would  
18 begin to address the issue of immigration. And,  
19 it's an issue that, unfortunately, I feel was not  
20 addressed seriously enough in the campaign leading  
21 up to the election of our new President.

22           So, with that, I ask people to join  
23 us on Saturday at 1 p.m. on East 125<sup>th</sup> Street, 115  
24 East 125<sup>th</sup> Street. We have sent out flyers to all  
25 elected officials, to all Council Members and we



1

2 would ask that people have representatives there.

3 And, thank you for your time.

4

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council

5

Member Martinez.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Thank

7

you, Madam Public Advocate. I just want to

8

commend the leadership of Council Member Melissa

9

Mark-Viverito on this issue and bringing it

10

forward to our community in terms of the need for

11

reform on the immigration policy in this country.

12

I also want to commend our Speaker

13

for taking the leadership and all my colleagues,

14

also, who participated in convincing this

15

Administration to withdraw the RFP for senior

16

centers. This gives us an opportunity to have

17

more dialogue and ensure that services for our

18

seniors are not interrupted and that we continue

19

to provide quality services to our seniors. Thank

20

you, Madam Speaker and thank you, Public Advocate.

21

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Thank you.

22

Seeing nobody else, Charter meeting-- oh, Council

23

Member Dickens, did you want to say--

24

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Yes.

25

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: -- something?

1

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you.

2

3

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Sorry.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I just

5

wanted to add to--

6

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,

7

please.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I just

9

wanted to add to my colleague--

10

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,

11

please.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: -- Council

13

Member Miguel Martinez, since he's so forgetful,

14

since he's so forgetful, that I want to

15

acknowledge the hard work of my other colleague

16

from the Bronx, Council Member Maria Arroyo and

17

Vacca for taking the lead on this fight. I thank

18

my Speaker. But, I thank those two colleagues for

19

the work that they did, Miguel.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: I, yi,

21

yi, yi, I, I...

22

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council

23

Member Martinez, do you want to vote?

24

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: No, just

25

give her a kiss.

1

2

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

3

We're going to adjourn now. No kissing.

4

5

6

7

8

9

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, DeeDee E. Tataseo certify 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.

Signature DeeDee E. Tataseo

Date March 22, 2009