

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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May 29, 2019  
Start: 1:52 p.m.  
Recess: 3:35 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: Laurie A. Cumbo  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Mark Levine  
Adrienne E. Adams  
Alicka Ampry-Samuel  
Diana Ayala  
Inez D. Barron  
Joseph C. Borelli  
Justin Brannan  
Margaret S. Chin  
Andrew Cohen  
Costa Constantinides  
Ruben Diaz, Sr.  
Daniel Dromm  
Mathieu Eugene  
Barry Grodenchik  
Robert Holden  
Ben Kallos  
ANDY KING  
PETER KOO  
Karen Koslowitz  
Rory I. Lancman

Brad Lander  
Mark Levine  
Alan N. Maisel  
Carlos Menchaca  
I. Daneek Miller  
Bill Perkins  
Keith Powers  
Antonio Reynoso  
Donovan J. Richards  
Ydanis Rodriguez  
Deborah Rose  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.  
Mark Treyger  
Paul Vallone  
Jimmy Van Bramer  
Kalman Yeger  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Corey Johnson  
Eric A. Ulrich

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



1  
2 [CHARISE TORRES] Check, check, check,  
3 check. Today is May 29, 2019, the Stated Meeting,  
4 being record by Charise Torres. [pause]

5 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Hello, hello! Welcome  
6 to New York City Council. We are so happy to welcome  
7 you all to today's Stated Meeting. We are going to  
8 begin with our first ceremonial. I am Majority  
9 Leader Laurie Cumbo and we are so happy that so many  
10 of our members are here and seated and ready to join  
11 us for this incredible proclamation, and what I love  
12 about this proclamation is that at this ceremonial we  
13 are continuing to recognize Women's History Month all  
14 year long. So we don't just do it in March. All  
15 year long we recognize the incredible and important  
16 accomplishments of women who have shaped New York  
17 City. I am going to turn it over to council  
18 colleague, Mark Levine, who is going to give us an  
19 incredible introduction to this dynamic woman that is  
20 here today for all of us at the City Council to be  
21 able to recognize. Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you,  
23 Majority Leader Cumbo and hello everyone! I am so  
24 thrilled about this proclamation honoring my dear  
25 friend and an icon of New York City's Community

1  
2 Garden Movement, Jenny Bonitez, who for, yeah, you  
3 can [applause] absolutely! When the history of upper  
4 Manhattan is written there is going to be a chapter  
5 dedicated to Jenny, who over the past 40 years has  
6 labored with her hands, her heart, her mind, to turn  
7 around what had been a forlorn patch of Riverside  
8 Park and has turned it into a thriving, thriving  
9 community garden which really is a model for the  
10 whole city. She has helped turn around a  
11 neighborhood. She has created community. She has  
12 produced thousands and thousands and thousands of  
13 healthy vegetables and she has brought together  
14 dozens of local volunteers and activists as part of  
15 this labor of love. It's long overdue that we  
16 recognize Jenny and I'm thrilled that we're doing so  
17 today, and it's very special that her wonderful  
18 daughter, Vicky Bonitez, is also here today, who has  
19 been there every step of the way, as this incredible  
20 family has had such an impact on upper Manhattan. So  
21 I'm going to ask our city clerk to please read this  
22 wonderful proclamation.

23 [CITY CLERK]: Thank you. Council, City  
24 of New York Proclamation. The New York City Council  
25 is proud to honor Jenny Bonitez for more than 55

1  
2 years of extraordinary service to the community of  
3 West Harlem. And whereas born and raised in Puerto  
4 Rico, Ms. Bonitez moved to New York City in 1956 at  
5 the age of 26. Later, when she and her husband,  
6 Victor, were blessed with four children, they set out  
7 to create a better world for them. In addition to  
8 the demanding full-time job of motherhood, she worked  
9 as an assistant teacher at Manhattan PS-192 and as a  
10 member of the Committee for Special Education for  
11 Manhattan School District 6. By the time she retired  
12 from the New York City Board of Education in 1998 she  
13 had excelled as a children's advocate in numerous  
14 roles for more than 20 years. And whereas beyond her  
15 career in education, Ms. Bonitez has had a  
16 challenging environment closer to her home near  
17 Riverside Drive and 138th Street, West Harlem. When  
18 she and her family moved to the area in the 1960s,  
19 Riverside Park was a popular playground for children,  
20 including her own, but also widely known as an  
21 illegal dumping ground for abandoned cars, tires,  
22 mattresses, and mounds of trash. Such blight was  
23 made even worse by the prevalence of drugs, not far  
24 from where Ms. Bonitez's kids would play hide and  
25 seek. Addicts would frequently set up camp and

1  
2 discard their needles and other paraphernalia. Such  
3 discordant lives seemed destined to collide.  
4 Eventually this environment led to the deaths of her  
5 two oldest sons. And whereas in the late 1970s Ms.  
6 Bonitez and a small group of volunteers worked  
7 together to clean up the park and reclaim it as  
8 Riverside Valley Community Garden. The simple act of  
9 gardening in a neglected urban space was a bold move,  
10 requiring a tireless commitment to sustain it. In  
11 the early years before the park was funded, she would  
12 carry buckets of water down the street in a shopping  
13 cart or even run a hose out of her apartment window  
14 to fill up a barrel on the street below. [laughter]  
15 As she and others planted flowers, vegetables, and  
16 more they were also planting seeds of hope.  
17 Throughout the 1980s, when most city parks suffered  
18 from years of budget cuts and neglect, this West Side  
19 acre began to blossom. In 1985 after the National  
20 Guard helped remove cars and large stones that could  
21 only be removed by heavy machinery, the garden had  
22 even more room to grow. And whereas after 20 years  
23 as a volunteer, Ms. Bonitez was given the official  
24 title of North Park Coordinator for the Riverside  
25 Park Conservancy. Most others recognize her,

1  
2 however, as the community matriarch. For 55 years  
3 now she has worked with generations of volunteers to  
4 care for this plot of land, not only occupying it but  
5 also altering it. Under her lengths, pesticides and  
6 herbicides of any kind are banned and volunteers only  
7 use organic methods to enrich the soil and crops,  
8 tending daily to their strawberries, peaches,  
9 potatoes, raspberries, eggplant, arugula, and more,  
10 have reaped season after season of harvest, all of  
11 which is later donated to a local soup kitchen or to  
12 neighborhood residents. And whereas Ms. Bonitez and  
13 her fellow gardeners have demonstrated how  
14 cultivating the earth also cultivates the best in  
15 one's character, working together to realize a common  
16 vision they have also harnessed the transformative  
17 power of service to unite, strengthen, and heal.  
18 Today she manages the space with 17 other volunteers  
19 who tend to individual plots, and with additional  
20 help from numerous community and corporate group  
21 volunteers also maintains Riverside Park from 135th  
22 through 14th Streets. Ms. Bonitez has been such an  
23 incredible steward for the area for so many years  
24 that the garden was recently renamed Jenny's Garden.  
25 [applause] And whereas the seeds of hope that Ms.



1  
2 Bonitez planted decades ago have grown into a legacy  
3 that is worthy of the esteem of every New Yorker, may  
4 her work to continue to inspire everyone to create a  
5 world even more beautiful and promising than the one  
6 in which we were born. Now therefore be it known  
7 that the New York City Council gratefully honors  
8 Jenny Bonitez for her extraordinary service and  
9 enduring contributions to the City of New York.  
10 [applause] Corey Johnson, speaker for the entire  
11 council, Mark D. Levine, Council Member, 7th  
12 District, Manhattan. [applause]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Now Jenny avoids  
14 the spotlight, but I think she has reluctantly agreed  
15 to say a couple of words so, please, Jenny.

16 JENNY BONITEZ: I would like to thank  
17 everyone in this place, because what is happening  
18 here I wasn't expecting ever, and this is a good,  
19 good ending to my journey, and I am very proud of you  
20 all being here with me participating such an honor  
21 that is this for me. I am 86 years old and I'm not  
22 going to be able, I'm not going to be able to be with  
23 you guys that long, but anyway I wish that in this  
24 place somebody would take care from themselves to do  
25 this kind of work, because this kind of work is a

1  
2 very fulfilling work, for children, for adults, for  
3 homeless, for everybody. I thank you so much. Thank  
4 you, Mark Levine. [applause]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: All right, now  
6 let's do a couple pictures. [pause]

7 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Good afternoon and  
8 welcome to the Stated Meeting of May 29, 2019. I am  
9 Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo. Please rise for the  
10 Pledge of Allegiance.

11 UNIDENTIFIED: All rise.

12 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: I pledge allegiance  
13 to the flag of the United States of America, and to  
14 the republic for which it stands, one nation under  
15 God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.  
16 Roll call. Quiet in the chamber. Quiet in the  
17 chamber.

18 UNIDENTIFIED: Adams.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I am present.

20 UNIDENTIFIED: Ampry-Samuel

21 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

22 UNIDENTIFIED: Ayala.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

24 UNIDENTIFIED: Barron.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

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UNIDENTIFIED: Borelli. Brannan.  
COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Cabrera. Chin.  
COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Cohen. Thank you.  
COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you. Constantinides.  
COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Present.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Cornegy. Deutsch. Diaz.  
COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Yo so aqui.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Dromm.  
COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Present.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Espinal. Eugene.  
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Gibson. Gjonaj.  
Grodenschik.  
COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Present.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Holden.  
COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Kallos.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.  
UNIDENTIFIED: King.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Koo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Koslowitz.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Lancman.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Lander.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Levin. Levine.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Maisel.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Menchaca.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Miller.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Moya. Perkins.  
COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Present.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Powers.  
COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Reynoso.  
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Richards.  
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Rivera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Rodriguez.  
COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Presente.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Rose.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Present.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Rosenthal.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Salamanca.  
COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Torres. Treyger.  
COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Ulrich. Vallone.  
COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Van Bramer.  
COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Yeger.  
COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Matteo. Cumbo.  
MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Present.  
UNIDENTIFIED: Speaker Johnson.  
SPEAKER JOHNSON: I'm here.  
MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We have a quorum.  
We will now move into today's invocation, which will  
be delivered by Rabbi Andy Bachman of the Jewish

1  
2 Project, which is located at 146 Duane Street in  
3 Manhattan.

4 UNIDENTIFIED: Quiet, please.

5 UNIDENTIFIED: Please rise.

6 UNIDENTIFIED: All rise.

7 RABBI BACHMAN: Source of life and light,  
8 source of justice and truth, source of freedom, love,  
9 and peace. Inspire and give strength to these  
10 elected officials and all who aid them in the good  
11 work of the New York City Council. Inspire their  
12 hearts and minds to do what is right. Guide them  
13 along paths of fairness and equity. Deepen their  
14 commitment to a generosity of spirit in serving all  
15 New Yorkers of all faiths and genders and nations of  
16 origin, to band together and celebrate the blessing  
17 of life, the wonder of creating, and the animating  
18 idea that there is always more that unites us than  
19 divides us and that together we can build a city and  
20 a nation and a world of justice and peace. Amen.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so  
22 much, Rabbi Bachman. I would now like to ask Council  
23 Member Chin to spread the invocation on record.

24 UNIDENTIFIED: Keep it down please, keep  
25 it down.

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2                   COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Majority  
3 Leader. Ordained as a rabbi in 1996 by the Hebrew  
4 Union College Jewish Institute of Religion, Rabbi  
5 Andy Bachman has served his community for more than  
6 two decades. Before becoming the executive director  
7 of the Jewish Community Project Downtown, Rabbi  
8 Bachman served the Brooklyn Jewish community in a  
9 number of capacities. In 2003 Rabbi Bachman and his  
10 wife, along with several friends, founded Brooklyn  
11 Jews, an innovative outreach program for the many  
12 unaffiliated Jews who have made Brooklyn their home  
13 in the past decade. Rabbi Bachman is a deeply  
14 committed Jewish leader who has dedicated his life to  
15 expanding and strengthening all aspects of  
16 [inaudible] Jewish public, private, and not-for-  
17 profit organization. I thank Rabbi Bachman for  
18 gracing us with his invocation and I make a motion  
19 that the invocation be spread in full upon the  
20 record.

21                   MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so  
22 much, Council Member Chin. We will now have the  
23 adoption of minutes by Council Member Holden.  
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COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I make a motion that the minutes of the stated meeting of April 9, 2019, be adopted as printed.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much, Council Member Holden. We will now have message and papers from the mayor.

CLERK: None.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Communication from city, county, and borough offices.

CLERK: Preconsidered M167 discount rate.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Petitions and communications.

CLERK: Hold on.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: We have to go back to that one. So, Mr. Clerk, if you could read number 5 again.

CLERK: Certainly. Preconsidered M167 discount rate.

UNIDENTIFIED: Finance.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Petitions and communications.

CLERK: None.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Land use call-ups.



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CLERK: M168, sidewalk cafe.

UNIDENTIFIED: Keep it quiet, please.

UNIDENTIFIED: Coupled up on call

[inaudible] vote. I this time I would like a roll call vote on today's land use call-up.

CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: With permission I'd like to vote on all land use call-ups and coupled items on the general order calendar and all resolutions.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Thank you. I vote aye.

UNIDENTIFIED: Quiet please, keep it down!

CLERK: Adams.

COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I'd like to welcome all of our students that are here today shadowing us, special shout out to my student, Yvette Banks from Professional Pathways High School. I vote aye on all.

CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

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COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Hi, and I just want to say hello and introduce my amazing student, Nicole Allen, and we vote aye on all.

CLERK: Ayala.

COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: So I'm going to introduce Eliza Santiago, who is with me, and I vote aye on all.

CLERK: Barron. Borelli. Brannan.

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Shout out to Melanie from Queens, who is riding shotgun with me. Aye.

CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Special shout out to Deref, who is my shadow today, and I vote aye.

CLERK: Deutsch. Diaz. Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

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CLERK: Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

CLERK: Gibson. Gjonaj.

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye.

CLERK: Grodenchik.

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: With a shout  
out to Alexander Santana from the great borough of  
the Bronx, the land of my parents' birth and my  
birth. I vote aye.

CLERK: Holden.

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye.

CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I want to give a  
shot out to all our shadows today, especially brother  
Anthony Robinson, who is graduating with his master's  
design come June 12 this year, congratulations to  
him, in criminal justice, and I vote aye on all.  
Monroe College in the house.

CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

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CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I'm glad to be  
joined by Shira Izakoff and I vote aye.

CLERK: Levin. Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

CLERK: Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

CLERK: Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to  
vote on all land use call-ups and general order,  
coupled general order items.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I vote aye on  
all. And welcome to all the young people in our  
house.

CLERK: Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye.

CLERK: Moya. Perkins.

COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye on all.

CLERK: Powers.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

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CLERK: Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye.

CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I would like to welcome Trinity Red Bear, who I'm shadowing, and who is going to become an NYPD police officer one day. [applause] And with that I vote aye.

CLERK: Rivera.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Tomaine Hamilton and I vote, say aye.

TOMAINE HAMILTON: Aye.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye. Thank you.

CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

CLERK: Salamanca.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I'd like to welcome Miguel Ortiz, who is a constituent of mine. He also goes to John Jay, and I vote aye on all.

CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

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CLERK: Treyger.

LORRAINE: Mr. Treyger and I vote aye, I mean...

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Yes, that is correct, and I just want to add I vote aye, that Lorraine's favorite subject in high school is history and that is why she is the best. I vote aye on all. [laughter]

CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

CLERK: Ulrich. Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

CLERK: Yeger.

COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye. Matteo. Cumbo.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I vote aye, and I am so pleased to recognize all of the Foster Youth Shadow Day participants, particularly Erica Francois from SUNY New Paltz, studying journalism and psychology, and wants to pursue a master's design at Columbia Journalism School, as well as Trenay Khan, who is at Stonybrook and she is a political science

1  
2 major, and I hope in the future that they will add to  
3 the next campaign of 21 and 21, but they'll be more  
4 like 41 and 41. So I'm so happy to welcome all of  
5 this dynamic women energy here in the council today  
6 with my two, ah, shadow foster day participants, who  
7 are dynamic women, and I vote aye on all.

8 CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Today's land use  
11 call-ups are adopted by a vote of 45 in the  
12 affirmative and zero negative. We will now have  
13 communication from Speaker Corey Johnson.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Good afternoon. I want  
15 to thank everyone for being here today. I hope you  
16 all enjoyed the sun this Memorial Day weekend. As we  
17 all know, this holiday is more than just the  
18 unofficial start to summer. Memorial Day  
19 commemorates the service women and men who gave their  
20 lives for our country. We are profoundly grateful to  
21 those women and men, and we should remember them not  
22 just on Memorial Day, but every day. Jumping back  
23 into our agenda that we have, as we always do, at  
24 Stated sadly today, once again, we acknowledge those  
25 who have succumbed to 911-related illnesses and

1  
2 others who have lost their lives in the line of duty.  
3 I would like to honor Vincent Goff, who passed away  
4 at the age of 52 earlier this year due to illnesses  
5 he developed serving down at Ground Zero. He served  
6 in the US Marine Corps before joining the NYPD and  
7 retiring as a sergeant detective. Additionally, a  
8 construction worker lost his life while working on a  
9 job in midtown Manhattan on May 18. His name has not  
10 been released, but we know that he was 49 years old.  
11 Our thoughts and prayers are with these families,  
12 friends, and colleagues. In honor of these New  
13 Yorkers, I ask that we all rise and take a moment of  
14 silence in their names.

15 UNIDENTIFIED: All rise. [moment of  
16 silence]

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you all. I have  
18 some exciting news today. May is Foster Care  
19 Awareness Month and today marks the fifth annual  
20 Foster Youth Shadow Day here at City Hall. I want to  
21 thank my predecessor, a previous speaker, Speaker  
22 Mark Viverito, for starting this really important day  
23 here at City Hall, and I want to thank our partners  
24 at Fostering Youth Success Alliance and Children's  
25 Aid. We have 20 young people visiting us who have



1  
2 spent time in the foster care system. They are  
3 amazing! [applause] They are amazing! They are  
4 amazing, amazing, amazing, amazing New Yorkers  
5 [applause] and it is a great opportunity for us as  
6 council members to hear firsthand what their  
7 experiences have been like and to get to know these  
8 young people, who as the Majority Leader said, are  
9 the future of our dynamic and great city. With me  
10 today is Gabby, who will be a senior at City College  
11 this fall. She is studying early childhood  
12 education, and I am so excited to get to know her.  
13 She wants to be a teacher serving public school  
14 students in New York City. [applause] She lives  
15 uptown, she lives uptown. I want to thank all the  
16 fellow council members for participating in this  
17 wonderful day and for all of the work that you do in  
18 supporting these young people. I want to thank all  
19 of our visitors. I hope to see some of you back in  
20 this council one day representing communities,  
21 hopefully as council members, and before I dive into  
22 today's agenda Council Member Levin isn't here today,  
23 he is on paternity leave, but I want to turn it over  
24 to the chair of our Youth Services Committee,  
25 Councilwoman Debbie Rose, who wants to make some

1  
2 remarks on this really important day, fostering the  
3 shadow day here at the City Council.

4           COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you so much,  
5 Speaker Johnson, and thank you for your support to  
6 make this day a special day. As the speaker  
7 mentioned earlier, this is a very special Stated and  
8 I am proud to be co-hosting Foster Youth Shadow Day.  
9 Steve Levin usually chairs this event. He has an  
10 innate love for foster care. We have with us more  
11 than a dozen young people in care and alumni who are  
12 shadowing us for the day. As we make laws here that  
13 directly impact the lives of young people, my hope is  
14 that they have an opportunity to learn more about how  
15 the City Council operates on a day-to-day basis. And  
16 to the young people here today, I say this is your  
17 city government, City Hall is your house, and we want  
18 you to be able navigating city government so that we  
19 can truly work for you. More importantly, we have  
20 something to learn from you. One of the reasons we  
21 host this day is so that we can hear more about your  
22 foster care experiences so that we can improve the  
23 foster care system. We want to do everything we can  
24 to ensure every young person who is touched by the  
25 system has the opportunity to reach their full

1  
2 potential. I am so proud to be joined today by  
3 Tomaine Hamilton, a young resident of the Bronx.  
4 Though his primary work is in the management with  
5 Level's Barber Shop his passion is in working with  
6 young people. He volunteers with ACS, working to  
7 help give young people a voice and new opportunities.  
8 He hopes to secure a permanent position with ACS and  
9 he plans to return to [inaudible] Community College  
10 in September. So I welcome Tomaine to City Hall, and  
11 to all of our future leaders and our visitors here  
12 today. I look forward to hosting a round table  
13 discussion with all of you after Stated, and I hope  
14 that you take the opportunity to make this visit  
15 today about opportunity and empowerment. Thank you,  
16 Speaker.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Debbie, for  
18 your incredible, incredible leadership, and Council  
19 Member Rose doesn't speak about this often, but she,  
20 before she ran for council she ran youth programs on  
21 Staten Island and spent so much of her career  
22 investing and supporting young people in the borough  
23 that she was born and raised in, and she has a deep,  
24 deep passion for this, and you should see her behind  
25 closed doors at the budget negotiating team talking

1  
2 about youth and young people. She is fierce and we  
3 are so grateful for her leadership. The council will  
4 vote on the following finance items today. The  
5 council is acting on the recommendations of the  
6 Banking Commission to set the interest that will be  
7 applied to fiscal 2020 for taxpayers who pay their  
8 property taxes early and late. For property owners  
9 who pay early, the council is adopting a 0.5%  
10 discount rate. For property owners who pay late, the  
11 council is adopting a 7% rate for properties with an  
12 assessed value of less than \$250,000 and a rate of  
13 18% for properties with an assessed value of more  
14 than \$250,000. These are the same rates that were  
15 adopted for fiscal 2019. In addition, the council  
16 will be voting on the following Article 11 property  
17 tax exemptions - Black Spruce, Central Harlem, in  
18 Council Member Perkins's district, Black Spruce,  
19 Washington Heights, in Council Member Mark Levine's  
20 and Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez's district, Five  
21 Teller HDFC, in Council Member and Land Use Chair,  
22 Rafael Salamanca's district, Walton Avenue Senior  
23 Housing, in Council Member Vanessa Gibson's district,  
24 Jennings Terrace Gardens, in Council Member Vanessa  
25 Gibson's district, Fairstead, West 48th Street, in my

1  
2 district, Fairstead, West 53rd Street, also in my  
3 district, and Lexington Court, in Council Members  
4 Bill Perkins's and Diana Ayala's district. I want to  
5 thank the staff who worked on these Article 11  
6 property tax exemptions, Noah Brick and Stephanie  
7 Ruiz. The council will vote on the following land  
8 use items - 66 Hudson Yard street scape text  
9 amendment, in my district, will modify the Special  
10 Hudson Yard District text relating to ground floor  
11 regulations and planting regulations in order to  
12 facilitate the development of an approximately 2.2  
13 million square foot class A office building. 47-15  
14 34th Avenue rezoning in Council Member Van Bramer's  
15 district would facilitate the development of a new  
16 mixed use building with 187 units, including 57  
17 permanently affordable units. East Harlem follow-up  
18 actions, in Council Members Diana Ayala's and Bill  
19 Perkins's districts in Manhattan will codify some of  
20 the East Harlem neighborhood rezoning points of  
21 agreement and will add height restrictions and  
22 requirements for a subway entrance relocations.  
23 Manna Products text amendment in Council Member Jimmy  
24 Van Bramer's district in Queens will facilitate the  
25 enlargement of an existing building to allow Manna

1  
2 Products to consolidate its operations in one  
3 location, and a residential voids text amendment will  
4 modify existing bulk regulations for residential  
5 buildings in certain districts. The council will be  
6 modifying the application to restore at 25-foot  
7 height threshold for establishing whether a  
8 building's enclosed mechanical space would be counted  
9 as zoning for area. The Department of City Planning  
10 has agreed to study additional loopholes and pursue  
11 follow-up actions. I want to thank the land use  
12 staff who worked on this - Chelsea Kelly, Jeff Yuen,  
13 and John Douglas. Moving on, the council will vote  
14 on the following pieces of legislation. First, in  
15 honor of our veterans following Memorial Day, Council  
16 Member Chaim Deutsch, the chair of our Veterans  
17 Committee, has sponsored Introduction 1047-A, which  
18 will require the Department of Veterans Services to  
19 coordinate with the Department of Consumer Affairs  
20 and other agencies to establish outreach and  
21 engagement efforts that include student veterans on  
22 financial issues and resources related to higher  
23 education. I want to congratulate the chair for this  
24 important bill. I want to thank the staff who worked  
25 on this, Nushat Choudry, Nell Beekman, Andrew

1  
2 Wilberg, and Smeeta Desmuth. Next, Introduction  
3 1180-A, sponsored by Council Member Diana Ayala,  
4 requires each case worker providing services at a  
5 DFTA senior center to complete a mental health  
6 training course in older adults offered by the  
7 Department of Health and a refresher course at least  
8 once every three years. I want to thank the staff,  
9 Nushat Choudry, Daniel Croop, and Andrea Vasquez for  
10 this. Congratulations, Diana. And next we're going  
11 to be voting on a series of bills pertaining to  
12 physical education. Introduction 242-B, sponsored by  
13 Council Member Antonio Reynoso, would require the  
14 Department of Education to produce a report on after-  
15 school athletic funding that would include student  
16 demographic information, funding for coaches,  
17 referees, athletic directors, equipment and uniforms,  
18 and also transportation. I want to thank the staff,  
19 Malcolm Bucorn, Smeeta Desmuth, Kayla O'Hagan, and  
20 Chelsea Bademuir. Introduction 1294-A, sponsored by  
21 Council Member Helen Rosenthal, will amend Local Law  
22 102 of 2015 to require additional reporting on  
23 whether students with disabilities are provided with  
24 adaptive physical education, including the number of  
25 students receiving each of these options per

1 individual school. I want to thank the staff,  
2 Malcolm Buchorn and Paul Senegal. Introduction 1298-  
3 A, sponsored by Council Member Mark Treyger, the  
4 chair of our education committee, would require the  
5 Department of Education to report on physical  
6 education curriculum in New York City schools,  
7 including average physical education class size, a  
8 description of the department's physical education  
9 scope and sequence, including the topics covered by  
10 that scope and sequence. The bill would additional  
11 require reporting on professional development  
12 received by certified physical education instructors.  
13 And I want to thank Malcolm and Paul again for  
14 working on this. Next, Introduction 342-A, sponsored  
15 by Council Member Debbie Rose, will require building  
16 owners who provide portable ramps for access to their  
17 buildings to post a sign at each inaccessible  
18 entrance stating that a portable ramp is available  
19 and the phone number to request the use of a ramp.  
20 It would also establishment requirements for portable  
21 ramps to ensure their safety and utility, and I want  
22 to thank the staff who worked on this, Austin  
23 Branford and Megan Chen. I'm excited to say that  
24 today we're going to be voting on two bills, focusing  
25



1  
2 on making our streets safer. Making our streets  
3 safer and breaking the car culture is something we've  
4 been working on for a while now. I'm proud that we  
5 have any opportunity to fulfill this commitment to  
6 our fellow New Yorkers. Introduction 1163-A,  
7 sponsored by Council Member Carlina Rivera, would  
8 require holders of Department of Transportation  
9 permits for work on a street or intersection that has  
10 a bike lane to maintain a temporary bike lane. This  
11 legislation also requires that the Department of  
12 Transportation must provide notice to affected  
13 council members, borough presidents, and the district  
14 manager of the affected community board upon approval  
15 of a permit for work affecting a street segment or  
16 intersection with a bike lane. I want to thank the  
17 staff who worked on this, Nicholas Connell, James  
18 Giovanni, and Elliott Lynn. Introduction 322-A,  
19 sponsored by Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, the  
20 chair of our transplantation committee, I'm very  
21 proud of this bill. He's done a great job on this.  
22 It will require the Department of Transportation to  
23 develop a checklist of safety-enhancing design  
24 elements that must be considered for all major street  
25 redesign project. For each project for which the

1  
2 checklist requirement applies, the department will be  
3 required to provide an explanation for why any  
4 safety-enhancing design element was not apply. Smart  
5 street design saves lives and these bills will make  
6 that possible. I'd like to thank everyone who has  
7 contributed to this effort to make our streets safer,  
8 and I want to thank the staff who worked on this,  
9 James Giovanni and Elliott Lynn. Moving on to three  
10 resolutions, Resolution 829, sponsored by Council  
11 Member Keith Powers, would call upon the state to  
12 pass the accompanying Senate and Assembly bills,  
13 known as the Less is More Act, which would reform  
14 parole in New York State. This legislation will  
15 restrict the use of detention for minor technical  
16 violations and would get people on parole,  
17 recognizance hearings, and criminal court prior to  
18 being detained. I want to thank the staff, Alana  
19 Civen, Keshorn Denny, and Brian Crow. Next is  
20 Resolution 143-A, sponsored by Council Member Danny  
21 Dromm, and it would call on the state to pass the  
22 accompanying Assembly and Senate bills, for the  
23 humane alternatives to long-term solitary  
24 confinement, also known as the HALT Act. This  
25 legislation would limit the amount of time that a

1  
2 person can spend outside of the general jail  
3 population for 15 days, to 15 days. It would also  
4 require state and local facility develop residential  
5 rehabilitation units to replace solitary confinement.  
6 I want to thank Alana, Keshorn, and Brian for their  
7 work on that resolution as well. And finally, in  
8 honor of Memorial Day, which just passed, and the  
9 75th anniversary of D-Day, which is next week,  
10 Resolution 844, sponsored by Council Member Fernando  
11 Cabrera, recognizes the 75th anniversary of D-Day.  
12 On June 4, 1944, more than 156,000 American, British,  
13 and Canadian soldiers landed in Normandy to help turn  
14 the tide of World War II. More than 4400 Allied  
15 service men and women were killed on that day alone.  
16 This legislation honors those who served and those  
17 who fell in service, and I want to congratulate  
18 Council Member Cabrera on this resolution, really  
19 important, and I want to recognize the staff, Michael  
20 Kurtz, Kevin Kutowsky, and Nusat Choudury. That  
21 concludes today's agenda for today's Stated Meeting,  
22 and I look forward to proceeding with today's votes.  
23 Thank you, Madam Majority Leader.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so  
25 much, Speaker Corey Johnson. We will now move into

1  
2 general discussion of orders and we will begin with  
3 Council Member Antonio Reynoso, followed by Council  
4 Member Carlina Rivera.

5           SPEAKER JOHNSON: Council Member Reynoso,  
6 before you begin, I was remiss. Council Member  
7 Reynoso alerted me earlier and I apologize it wasn't  
8 in the remarks. We're joined by some really amazing  
9 young adults who are here today who have been part of  
10 the Fair Play Coalition, who have worked very, very  
11 closely with Council Member Reynoso and the other  
12 folks, Chair Treyger, as part of this package.  
13 They're here today. They've worked very, very hard  
14 on this. [applause] I'm really, really proud of them  
15 and I want to thank them, I want to thank them and  
16 recognize their hard work. Your voice matters, your  
17 advocacy matters. We're really grateful that you're  
18 here today and we hope that you will continue to work  
19 with us on issues of access and equity in our school  
20 system, not just on physical education and on sports,  
21 but on all issues that matter to young people across  
22 our city. So welcome, thank you, and I want to turn  
23 it over to Council Member Antonio Reynoso.

24           MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.  
25

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you,  
3 Speaker Johnson, and I also want to congratulate the  
4 Fair Play Coalition. I want to say this is not my  
5 bill. This is their bill. They gave, they gave me  
6 the honor to be able to Council Member, I can carry  
7 these bills for them. These young people have been  
8 out there fighting for a long time to try to make  
9 this happen. So today this is your victory, so  
10 congratulations to you again. [applause] In 1954 the  
11 Supreme Court ruled that separate but equal was  
12 unconstitutional. That was 65 years ago. As  
13 monumental as the decision was for the civil rights  
14 movements, very little has changed in our country's  
15 school system. Our schools are still deeply  
16 segregated and resources are distributed inequitably.  
17 We are still separate. We are still unequal.  
18 However, today we are taking a small but significant  
19 step towards greater equality within our school  
20 system by passing Intro 242, which will require the  
21 Department of Education to report on how it allocates  
22 funding to critically important afterschool sports  
23 programming. Kids involved in sports have a 15%  
24 higher chance of going to college and are 1/10 as  
25 likely to become obese, have decreased rate of

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2 juvenile arrest, teen births, drop-out rates, drug  
3 use, depression, suicide. Yet even with evidence in  
4 hand on the positive impacts these programs have on  
5 children, the Department of Education has chosen to  
6 allocate funding in an inequitable way, resulting in  
7 system in which black and Latino students are twice  
8 as likely as students of other races to lack access  
9 to any high school sports. 17,323 black and Latino  
10 high school students attend high schools with not  
11 even a single PSAL team, more than twice the rate for  
12 students of other races. In 2014, the most recent  
13 year this data was made available, the Department of  
14 Education spent 14% less on the average black and  
15 Latino than on any student of other races. I want to  
16 highlight that today's victory is not just a  
17 legislative one, but a victory for civic engagement  
18 and youth empowerment. Again, Intro 242 is not  
19 passing because of me. It is a result of sustained  
20 advocacy by students who are impacted by these  
21 inequities. And I'll just wrap it up, Council  
22 Member, ah, Speaker. I want to thank you for  
23 recognizing the importance of this issue and  
24 springing it into action, as well as my council  
25 colleagues for supporting this important legislation.

1  
2 Thank you again, and congratulations to the Fair Play  
3 Coalition. [applause]

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Madam Majority Leader,  
5 I also want to correct for the record there was a  
6 misprint on my remarks. D-Day is on June 6, not on  
7 June 4, and it is important that we get that correct,  
8 so I wanted to correct that for the record. I  
9 apologize for the misstatement.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We  
11 will now hear from Council Member Carlina Rivera.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you. I  
13 want to just take this opportunity to speak on a  
14 piece of legislation that we're voting on today that  
15 I'm proud to be the lead sponsor of. You heard the  
16 speaker with Intro 1163, which would require that  
17 permits issued by the Department of Transportation  
18 for on-street construction include rules for the  
19 maintenance and protection of bike local anesthesia,  
20 and before that these stipulations had not been  
21 updated for over 10 years, and the measure isn't only  
22 for cyclists, right? Sharing the road is beneficial  
23 to pedestrians, motorists, and cyclists, and we all  
24 know with bike infrastructure growing every single  
25 year in all of our districts that this piece of

1  
2 legislation is overdue. It is a common-sense bill,  
3 and as most common-sense bills do it came out of a  
4 constituent's concern and my own personal experience,  
5 who choses a bike as their favorite in-district  
6 transit option. So I want to thank Commissioner  
7 Trottenberg and the team at DOT. They agree with the  
8 intent and the spirit of this bill, and they are  
9 moving to implement these changes as soon as  
10 possible, and of course I have to thank all of the  
11 advocates. The groups have been incredible in their  
12 support, and to the staff here, James D'Giovanni,  
13 Nicholas Connell, Elliott Lynn, Jeff Baker, of  
14 course, have to thank Jason Goldman, my chief of  
15 staff, Pedro Carrillo, the great John Blasco, and my  
16 legislative director, Jeremy Unger. So this bill  
17 addresses one part of a larger conversation around  
18 safe streets, and I'm so pleased that the council has  
19 just committed to creating a New York that we want to  
20 see as one of the most pedestrian- and bike-friendly  
21 states in the nation. So thank you for your support,  
22 and I appreciate everyone here.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We  
24 will now hear remarks from Council Member Helen  
25 Rosenthal, followed by Council Member Debbie Rose.



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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so  
3 much, Minority Leader Cumbo, Majority Deputy, whoever  
4 you are Cumbo [laughter], you're in charge.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [laughs] I'll  
6 take 'em all.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: You're the  
8 queen.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I like that one  
10 better.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you.  
12 Sorry, I'm lost in thought about the mechanical void,  
13 vote that we're taking today and I just want to say  
14 on the record how deeply disappointed I am with the  
15 Department of City Planning for, um, making the  
16 effort to go around the city, listen to every  
17 community board, you know, and in fact the community  
18 boards engaged quite a bit in this decision on  
19 mechanical voids and the borough presidents did as  
20 well. And yet when the final proposition came out  
21 there was not one change made to the mechanical void  
22 zoning resolution that had been put forth in the  
23 first instance. So while there were universal  
24 comments asking for changes, asking for the planning  
25 commission to address the issues that they had said

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2 they would set out to address, ah, or at least we  
3 thought they had set out to address, I am very  
4 disheartened by the zoning law that we're going to be  
5 voting on today. It does not address height, which  
6 we thought it would do, and frankly the notion that  
7 having, you know, allowing there to be many  
8 mechanical voids in order to, you know, appease  
9 developers and bring more supply, if you look at the  
10 building [inaudible], and I'm all for more supply of  
11 apartments, surely we have to address our issues of  
12 affordable housing. But if you look at the building  
13 in my district that sparked the whole conversation,  
14 which was a developer wanting to put 160-foot  
15 mechanical void space in a building in order to have  
16 apartments that would have a much better view and  
17 yield higher returns for that developer, you know,  
18 this particular building is only bringing in 121  
19 apartments. It's doing nothing for affordable  
20 housing and the new zoning will only lower the height  
21 of that building by six floors. Instead of an 80-  
22 story building we have a 74-story building. I'll end  
23 my remarks. Thank you for giving me a chance to  
24 speak. Thank you.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so  
3 much, Council Member Rosenthal. We will now hear  
4 from Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, I'm sorry,  
5 Council Member Rose, followed by Council Member  
6 Ydanis Rodriguez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you, Majority  
8 Leader. I would like to thank Speaker Johnson for  
9 helping me finally get this bill to see the light of  
10 day. I'd like to thank the advocates and all those  
11 who worked on this bill. Intro 342-A would require  
12 that a sign be posted at inaccessible building  
13 entrances indicating that a portable ramp is  
14 available when such a ramp exists. While creating a  
15 permanent means of accessibility to all of the  
16 buildings in New York City is the goal, we know that  
17 this is not immediately possible. In my first term,  
18 my first term, I passed Intro 797-A, which requires a  
19 sign that inaccessible building entrances, public  
20 toilets, and elevators stating where the nearest  
21 accessible one is. Intro 342-A was a part of that  
22 bill, but we had to take it out in negotiations to  
23 get the first part passed. I promised at that time  
24 that I would continue to fight for the full  
25 provisions advocates had asked for, and we submitted

1  
2 a legislative request for each term after that. I've  
3 fought for this ever since and today, nine-and-a-half  
4 years later, that promise is being fulfilled. This  
5 bill will ensure that our constituents know that an  
6 accessibility ramp is available for them. They have  
7 a number that they can call to request the ramp and,  
8 more importantly, they know that they can safely gain  
9 access to the building at any time. The bill will  
10 also establish the safety standards for the ramps to  
11 prevent accidents in the future. This is just  
12 another measure to make it easier for any persons  
13 with a disability to access buildings without worry  
14 or concern for their safety. This is a win-win for  
15 all of us and for the communities of special  
16 abilities. Thank you.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
18 Council Member Rose. We will now hear from Council  
19 Member Rodriguez, followed by Council Member Kallos.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you,  
21 Majority Leader, and thank you, Speaker, for the  
22 leadership. We know that this bill, the Street  
23 Design Checklist, would never happen without the  
24 strong leadership and support that we got from the  
25 speaker, and I'm happy to see how after listening to

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many stories, story after story, from people from Washington Heights to the South Bronx, we hear how many intersections are not safe. But those stories are not only for the residents of the South Bronx and Washington Heights. That happens in many other places in the Bronx. That happens in Brooklyn, that happens in Queens, Staten Island, and throughout the five boroughs. The reality is that when we have seen the numbers in New York City of pedestrians being killed and the number of crashes, we have seen an increase at the end of last year. No agency would like to be told what to do. But thanks to the legislative staff and the speaker and everyone, especially the Transportation Alternative Family for Safe Streets, we voted today in a [inaudible] approval bill that will mandate DOT to use Vision Zero Street Design Checklist, to make our city, as Council Member Carlina Rivera said, the most walkable pedestrian- and cycle-friendly in the whole nation. So this is an important milestone that we have in the City of New York to make our streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists. There's a lot more that we've got to do and this will not happen again

1  
2 without the support of Speaker Johnson and the rest  
3 of my colleagues. Thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
5 Council Member Rodriguez. And now we will have  
6 Council Member Kallos.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Today we're  
8 voting to close loopholes that are allowing for  
9 construction of super-tall towers in residential  
10 neighborhoods. These are towers of 900 feet and  
11 taller. The amendment was originally proposed by the  
12 Department of City Planning in response for advocacy  
13 from those of us who want to say to no to empty  
14 buildings filled with voids simply to give the 1%  
15 better views, leaving the rest of us in their shadow.  
16 By strengthening and passing the proposed limit, the  
17 height of mechanical voids to only 25 feet, this is  
18 down from the two buildings that exceed 150 feet or  
19 more of empty space we are taking a significant step  
20 forward towards stopping developers from getting  
21 around zoning to give billionaires views instead of  
22 building the affordable housing that New Yorkers  
23 need. To be clear, when we saw voids of 30 and 40  
24 feet, no one did anything. Now we're seeing  
25 buildings with 150 feet of voids and we're putting a

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2 stop to those buildings and the next building with  
3 200, 300, 400 feet of nothing but height to give  
4 views to billionaires. This is only a start. And we  
5 need to go much farther and can do so by holding City  
6 Planning to its promise to expand to commercial  
7 districts, to address unenclosed voids, and  
8 gerrymander zoning lots first identified in my  
9 district. There is something wrong when developers  
10 would rather build empty space to prop up wealthy  
11 rather than building the affordable housing 99% of  
12 New Yorkers need. I want to give a huge and personal  
13 thank you to our speaker, Corey Johnson, our  
14 Manhattan borough president, Gail Brewer, for their  
15 partnership, as well as Raju Mann and the whole land  
16 use team who have been fighting to close these  
17 loopholes and ensure that construction in our city is  
18 actually for New Yorkers. Thank you. Please vote  
19 aye.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so  
21 much, Council Member Kallos. We will now have  
22 reports of standing committees.

23 CLERK: On the report of special  
24 committees, Madam Majority Leader, there are none,  
25 and on the reports of standing committees, report of

1  
2 the Committee on Aging, Intro 1188-A, mental health  
3 training for caseworks.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
5 general orders.

6 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
7 Education, Intros 242-B, 1294-A, and 1298-A,  
8 afterschool athletics and physical education.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
10 general orders.

11 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
12 Finance, Preconsidered M167 through Preconsidered  
13 891, discount rate and property taxes.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general  
15 orders.

16 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 428 and Reso 903  
17 through Preconsidered LU 435 and Reso 910, tax  
18 exemptions.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general  
20 orders.

21 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
22 Housing and Buildings, Intro 342-A, portable ramps.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
24 general orders.



2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land  
3 Use, LU 397, residential tower mechanical voids.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved with  
5 modifications and referred to the City Planning  
6 Commission pursuant to Section 197-D of the New York  
7 City Charter.

8 CLERK: Excuse me. LU 403 and Reso 911,  
9 and LU 404 and Reso 912, 34th Avenue rezoning.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general  
11 orders.

12 CLERK: LU 411, Manna Products text  
13 amendments.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved with  
15 modifications and referred to the State Planning  
16 Commission pursuant to Section 197-D of New York City  
17 Charter.

18 CLERK: LU 412 and Reso 913, 66 Hudson  
19 Yard Street Scape.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general  
21 orders.

22 CLERK: LU 413 and Reso 914, and LU 414  
23 and Reso 915, East Harlem rezoning.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general  
25 orders.

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CLERK: Report of the Committee on Transportation, Intros 322-A, 1163-A, Street Design Checklist and Bicycle lanes.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Veterans, Intro 1047-A, veteran outreach.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on general orders.

CLERK: On the general order calendar, LU 397 and Reso 916, and LU 411 and Reso 917, zoning amendments.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Resolution appointing various persons, Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general orders. And at this time I'm asking for a roll call vote on all of the items on today's general order calender.

CLERK: Adams.

COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Oh, I can speak now? OK. We vote aye on all.

CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

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COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: [low voice]  
Aye on all.

UNIDENTIFIED: [whispered] Aye on all?

COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye on all.

UNIDENTIFIED: Aye on all. [inaudible] We  
vote aye on all.

CLERK: Ayala.

COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Permission to  
explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I  
vote aye on all with the exception of 403 and 404 for  
the usual reasons. I think it does not go far enough  
to providing housing, and I appreciate the work that  
was done on LU 397 in putting a limit or reducing the  
limit down to 25 feet for those mechanical voids, but  
I think it doesn't go far enough. I think we should  
have gone to zero. Why do we need to have that space  
that could have in fact been used for apartments? So  
for that reason I'm voting no on that as well. Thank  
you.

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MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

CLERK: Borelli.

COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all,  
except Intro 322 and Preconsidered Reso 889.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

CLERK: Brannan.

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: I vote aye on  
all, with the exception of 889 and 890. I vote no.

CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CLERK: Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: No on 322 and  
889, aye on the rest.

CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye [inaudible].

CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yeah, please  
give me permission to explain my vote, please?

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2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
3 granted. Yes. [laughter] Thank you for the  
4 emphasis.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: [laughs] Thank  
6 you. Want me to spell it out for you?

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Much needed.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: So, first, thank  
9 you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your unwavering  
10 supports of our city's veteran community. Intro 1047  
11 will request the Department of Veterans Services to  
12 conduct outreach to veterans [inaudible] information  
13 regarding higher education. Veterans are eligible  
14 for many government programs and aid for tuition,  
15 housing, and other costs associated with higher  
16 education. Furthermore, veterans can also fall  
17 victim to scams and it's important that they are all  
18 well equipped to recognize the signs of fraud. The  
19 Department of Veterans Services under leadership of  
20 Commissioner Laurie Sutton will be able to widely  
21 disseminate this information as well as sharing it on  
22 their website. Veterans, particularly younger ones,  
23 are vastly better positioned to attain well-paying  
24 jobs if they receiving a higher education. It's  
25 vitally important that we ensure that they have a

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smooth path to success as they pursue their studies.  
I'm grateful to my bill co-sponsor and former  
Veterans Committee chairman, Eric Ulrich, for his  
support on Intro 1047, Higher Education Committee  
chair Inez Barron, and our former public advocate,  
Tish James, who has been a champion of this issue.  
Finally, I want to thank my committee counsel, Nuzat  
Saudry, and for all of our hard work on this bill,  
thank you, and I vote aye on all.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: You're welcome.

CLERK: Diaz.

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Permission to  
explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Thank you, Madam  
Chairlady. I am [inaudible] on two resolutions that  
are really bothering me, Resolution 889 and  
Resolution 890, are going to put punishment in  
homeowners that don't pay their taxes. We don't know  
that there are many reasons why homeowners could be  
late on their taxes and we are supposed to be here to  
try to help them, not to lose their homes or their  
properties. But these two resolutions we're putting,

1  
2 we're adding to their burden, so they could lose  
3 their property sooner. I mean, we ask you close to,  
4 up to 18% interest when they don't pay their taxes,  
5 the homeowner died or something, that I cannot  
6 swallow. I mean, even though if I am the only one to  
7 vote no, I'm voting no on those two resolutions. We  
8 go out there and we go politicking out there and we  
9 tell them that we're going to help them when we come  
10 here, and then we come here and this is what we do,  
11 increasing their burden so they could lose their  
12 home? This is no good, no good, no good. I'm voting  
13 no on 889 and no on 890. Thank you, Madame  
14 President.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
16 Council Member Diaz.

17 CLERK: Dromm.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Permission to  
19 explain my vote, Madam Majority Leader?

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
21 granted.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very  
23 much. I just wanted to state how glad I am to see  
24 Intro 242-B on the agenda today. I want to  
25 congratulate Council Member Antonio Reynoso. I want

1  
2 to congratulate the students, and I want to  
3 congratulate their teacher, David Rosario, who came  
4 to us about four or five years ago when I was chair  
5 of the education committee to show the inequities  
6 that were happening in the public school, and in the  
7 last term when I was chair of the educate committee  
8 we were able to secure one million dollars for small  
9 schools' athletic league. I think the second year we  
10 were able to get 2 million dollars, and then I think  
11 they baselined it. But even after that we were very  
12 disappointed to find out that the money was not  
13 getting to the schools that needed it the most. So I  
14 think the best thing we can do is what Antonio  
15 Reynoso, Council Member Antonio Reynoso, has done,  
16 which is to do some, put some sunshine on how the  
17 money is being spent for PSAL and for SSAL as well.  
18 So I vote in favor of this, Intro 242-B, as well as  
19 all the other items on the agenda. Thank you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

21 CLERK: Espinal.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Congratulations  
23 to all my colleagues. I vote aye on all.

24 CLERK: Eugene. Gibson.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to  
3 explain my vote?

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
5 granted.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madam  
7 Majority Leader, and good afternoon colleagues. I  
8 first and foremost echo the sentiments of our speaker  
9 in recognizing Council Member Steve Levin and Council  
10 Member Debbie Rose for once again hosting Foster  
11 Youth Shadow Day. I am so proud to introduce to all  
12 of you Zaire Gomez, who is from the BX. She is a  
13 junior at Walton High School with plans to go to John  
14 Jay College and really focus on so many of the issues  
15 that our foster youth face each and every day. So  
16 we're grateful to have her here along with many of  
17 our other colleagues, and I will be voting aye on  
18 all, and I want to congratulate all of my colleagues  
19 that have legislation on today's agenda. I  
20 particularly want to highlight two of the resolutions  
21 that we are voting on in support of state  
22 legislation, the HALT Act, as well as the bill  
23 dealing with parole violations, understanding the  
24 disproportionate impact that parole violations have  
25 on young people in communities of color. I want to

1  
2 thank Council Member Danny Dromm and Council Member  
3 Keith Powers for their leadership in that effort.  
4 And while I have time, I neglected to do so earlier  
5 today, but I certainly wanted to go on record in  
6 supporting two of the Argo 11 items that are on  
7 today's agenda and thank all of my colleagues for  
8 supporting these measures. The first one is Jennings  
9 Terrace Gardens, which is a 41-unit affordable co-op  
10 in the Morrisania Community of my district. For man  
11 years this used to be NYCHA Scattered Site Housing  
12 before it was purchased and these shareholders have  
13 done tremendous work to turn around these apartments  
14 and this neighborhood. It's been a vibrant part of  
15 Morrisania and I'm so proud that we are extending the  
16 preservation for the next 40 years, as well as a 75-  
17 unit affordable senior housing, Council Member Chin,  
18 Walton Avenue, Faneuil Hammer Senior Apartments in my  
19 district, very proud, AMI is at 50%, very proud that  
20 we are preserving senior housing, and with that I  
21 vote aye on all and congratulations to all of my  
22 colleagues.

23 CLERK: Gjonaj.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Permission to  
25 explain my vote?

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MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you, Majority Leader. I can't support the city making a profit off of struggling New Yorkers misfortune and economic hardship. It's just not right. For the most part, if homeowners aren't paying their property taxes it's because they can't afford to, or they forgot to make their payment. And charging interest as high as 18% is not right. We should advance initiatives to help them get back on their feet and not lock them into financial death spirals. It is universally understood that New York City's property tax system is inherently unfair and discriminatory to the poorest of the poor. So I vote aye on all except Resolution 889 and 890.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

CLERK: Grodenchik.

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Permission to very, very briefly just make a short statement, Madam Majority Leader?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission granted.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you. I  
3 want to thank my colleagues, especially today for  
4 remembering that next week is D-Day. I want to thank  
5 the speaker for his remarks. This D-Day I'm  
6 remembering Mr. Stanley Bernstein, who was not a  
7 constituent. He was actually a constituent of Andrew  
8 Cohen in the Bronx, but he was the father and father-  
9 in-law of my dear friends and constituents, Deborah  
10 and Arnie Abramowitz, and he was in the first wave,  
11 the very first wave, at Omaha Beach in Sector Dog  
12 Red. He spent his last 15 years as a New Yorker and  
13 he passed recently at the ripe age of 102. Of  
14 course, it's never enough. But we were blessed to  
15 have him for that long, and with that, Madam Majority  
16 Leader, it's my honor to introduce Mr. Santana to  
17 cast my vote.

18 MR. SANTANA: Aye on all.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you.

20 CLERK: Holden.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye on  
22 all, with the exception of Preconsidered Reso 889 and  
23 890, I vote no on those.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

25 CLERK: Kallos.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Mr. King votes no on 889 and 890, he votes yes on the rest, and congratulations to Fair Play.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote aye on all. And I want to let folks know, Shira is hoping to go to Kingsborough Community College, so maybe the council will get to see her at a future summer outing sometime when she is down there.

CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I thank you. I want to change my vote. I'm glad that we have the opportunity to comment on our votes, and having heard comments from my colleagues, I want to vote no on Resos 889 and 890, and that's in addition to LU 397, 403, and 404, and the accompanying resolutions. Thank you.

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MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I vote aye on  
all.

CLERK: Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

CLERK: Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: On behalf of the  
27% of New Yorkers who are homeowners, and often  
struggling and who are awaiting the tax commission's  
reforms, I vote no on 889 and 890. I will be  
abstaining on 322-A. I vote aye on all the rest.

CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I'm voting no on  
899 and 890 [inaudible].

CLERK: Perkins.

COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye on all.

CLERK: Powers.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye on all.

CLERK: Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I proudly vote  
aye on all.

CLERK: Richards.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye on all.

CLERK: Rivera.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.

CLERK: Salamanca.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all, I'm sorry.

CLERK: Treyger.

LORRAINE: Majority Leader, can I please explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: She got that right on the first. That's impressive. Thank you. Ah [laughs], thank you very much Lorraine and the majority leader. I just want to quickly say that I

1  
2 want to thank the speaker, my great colleagues,  
3 namely Council Member Reynoso, Council Member  
4 Rosenthal, Chair Danny Dromm, who has been an amazing  
5 advocate and champion, and of course the amazing  
6 student advocates, Fair Play Coalition and some of  
7 the others. Over 200,000 students in our school  
8 system do not receive the required physical education  
9 time that they are entitled to under state mandates  
10 and rules. We've also learned that a significant  
11 number of our students are denied opportunities in  
12 afterschool athletics, predominantly students of  
13 color. It's unacceptable. And so Council Member  
14 Reynoso and to my colleagues, thank you for your  
15 great work, and also a shout out to Council Member  
16 Rosenthal for her great bill, making sure that we are  
17 providing accommodations for all students who  
18 deserve, who need access to physical education. So  
19 this is a great bill. Speaker, thank you for your  
20 leadership to guide us to the finish line. This is a  
21 home run for our kids. With that, I vote aye on all.  
22 [applause]

23 CLERK: Vallone.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all, with  
25 the exception of 889 and 890.



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CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

CLERK: Yeger.

COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye on all, with the exception of Resolution 889 and 890. Thank you.

CLERK: Cumbo.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: As a future [inaudible] [giggle], as a future lawyer and as a future journalist, on behalf of Majority Leader Cumbo, aye on all.

CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Aye on all.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All items on today's general order calendar are adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative, 0 negative, and 0 abstentions, with the exception of LUs 403 and 404 with accompanying Resos, which was adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative, 1 negative, and 0 abstentions, and Intro 322-A, which was adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative, 2 negative, and 1 abstention. And Resolution 889, which was adopted by a vote of 35 in the affirmative, 12 negative, and 0 abstentions. And Resolution 890, which was adopted by a vote of 37 in the affirmative, 10 negative, and

1  
2 0 abstentions. And LU 397 and Resolution 916, which  
3 was adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative and 1  
4 negative and 0 abstentions. The revised land use  
5 call-up vote is 47 in the affirmative and 0 negative.  
6 We will now move into the introduction and reading of  
7 bills.

8                   SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills have been  
9 referred to committees as indicated on today's  
10 agenda.

11                   MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Are there any  
12 members who wish to speak on today's resolutions? We  
13 will begin with Council Member Dromm, followed by  
14 Council Member Cabrera.

15                   COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very  
16 much, Madam Majority Leader. New York State has the  
17 opportunity to end state-sanctioned torture, and I am  
18 proud of this council for leading the way with  
19 Resolution 143, which urges our state legislatures to  
20 pass and the governor to sign the Halt Solitary  
21 Confinement Act. Experts agree that long-term  
22 solitary confinement, defined as more than 15 days by  
23 the United Nations, causes irreputable psychological  
24 harm. Thank you, Chair Powers, for your leadership.  
25 I also want to recognize the staff who worked on

1  
2 this, William Honat, Keshorn Denny, and Alana Civen,  
3 also my legislative director, Sebastian McGuire, and  
4 I also want to thank the advocates especially of the  
5 Halt Solitary campaign, whose bravery and tenacity  
6 have steadfastly pushed this issue into the public  
7 consciousness. Thank you very much.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member  
9 Cabrera.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so  
11 much and thank you to the speaker. Resolution 844  
12 recognizes the 75th anniversary of D-Day. D-Day was  
13 the largest seaborne invasion in history. The  
14 invasion fleet, which was drawn from eight different  
15 navies, comprised of 6939 vessels. June 6, 1944,  
16 will forever be etched in the annals of history for  
17 the defining moment when over 400,000 Allied troops  
18 turned the tide towards victory in World War II.  
19 Naval operations for the invasion were described by  
20 historian Correlli Barnett as a never-surpassed  
21 masterpiece of planning. 4414 Allied brave and  
22 courageous soldiers lost their lives for our freedom  
23 on D-Day. Casualties were the heaviest at Omaha with  
24 its high cliff. Today we salute their selfless act  
25 of valor and I want to thank all my colleagues for

1  
2 their support of this resolution and all the staff  
3 for their hard work. On another note, my grandfather  
4 was, he served and I salute him. He served in World  
5 War II as one of the 351 Dominicans that we were able  
6 to discover served during World War II through the  
7 Dominican Institute, so I salute every one of those  
8 soldiers who really gave their heart and soul so they  
9 could assure our freedom. Thank you so much, thank  
10 you, Mr. Speaker.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
12 Council Member Cabrera. Council Member Chin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Today  
14 we'll be voting on Resolution 714-A, which would  
15 urge, which would urge Congress to pass and the  
16 president to sign the Protecting Older Workers  
17 Against Discrimination Act. While the age  
18 discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 protects  
19 individual age 40 and older from age discrimination  
20 in the workplace, a 2009 US Supreme Court decision  
21 weakens these protection and make it harder for  
22 individuals to prove they were subject to age  
23 discrimination in their job. In 2017 the New York  
24 City Commission on Human Rights received 119 queries  
25 related to age discrimination in employment. We must

1  
2 do all we can to protect workers of every background,  
3 age, and gender and faith. I urge all my colleagues  
4 to support this resolution.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
6 Council Member Chin. Council Member Rose.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you. I'm  
8 excited to seek your support for Intro, I forgot,  
9 which will create a public burial task force to  
10 review the laws, rules, regulations, and policies and  
11 procedures relating to public burial and to consider  
12 and make recommendations regarding changes to such  
13 laws, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures.  
14 An estimated one million people are buried at Hart  
15 Island, most of whom remain nameless to us. But to  
16 someone else they were a child, a parent, or a friend  
17 even. A mother who gives her consent to a city  
18 burial for an infancy loss is unaware that her child  
19 will end up among other unidentified loved ones at a  
20 burial site that is not easily accessible. The task  
21 force will issue a report to the mayor with  
22 recommendations for improving the process for  
23 identifying loved ones, finding and contacting the  
24 next of kin, support and communication for next of  
25 kin that are considering a public burial or burial

1  
2 assistance programs and more. My hope is that this  
3 task force will identify new ways for the city to  
4 ensure that those identified for public burial are  
5 given a proper and dignified burial. Thank you.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
7 Council Member Rose. We just have to make sure, we  
8 cannot afford to lose one member in order to hold  
9 quorum, so we need everyone to remain. We need  
10 everyone to remain while we read the resolutions at  
11 this time. I'll now read today's resolutions into  
12 the record. Members who wish to vote against or  
13 abstain on any of these resolutions should register  
14 your vote with the clerk at the dais. We'll begin  
15 with Resolution 85-B, an amended resolution calling  
16 up the New York City Department of Education to  
17 ensure that all students have equitable access to  
18 afterschool athletic activities and associated  
19 funding. All in favor say aye.

20 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All opposed?  
22 Abstentions? The ayes have it. Resolution 143-A, an  
23 amended resolution calling on the New York State  
24 Legislature to pass and the governor to sign the  
25

2 Humane Alternatives to Long Term Solitary Confinement  
3 Act, all in favor say aye.

4 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All opposed?  
6 Abstentions? The ayes have it. Resolution 714-A, an  
7 amended resolution calling upon the United States  
8 Congress to pass and the president to sign S485 and  
9 HR-1230, the Protecting Older Workers Against  
10 Discrimination Act. All in favor say aye.

11 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All opposed?  
13 Abstentions? The ayes have it. Resolution 811,  
14 resolution calling up on the New York State  
15 Legislature to pass and the governor to sign  
16 legislation to require inclusion of employee  
17 protection provisions in all current and future  
18 school bus contracts in New York City. All in favor  
19 say aye.

20 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All opposed?  
22 Abstentions? The ayes have it. Resolution 829,  
23 resolution calling upon the New York State  
24 Legislature to pass and the governor to sign S1343-B  
25 and A-5493, which would reform revocation presumptive

2 release, parole, conditional release, and post  
3 release supervision. All in favor say aye.

4 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All opposed?  
6 Abstentions? The ayes have it. Resolution 844,  
7 resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of D-Day.  
8 All in favor say aye.

9 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All opposed?  
11 Abstentions? The ayes have it. At this time we are  
12 going to call on Council Member Eric Ulrich.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: All right, I'm  
14 asking please for unanimous consent to vote on all  
15 land use items and items on the general order  
16 calendar, unanimous. It has to mean everybody says  
17 yes, right?

18 UNIDENTIFIED: OK.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: OK, so hopefully  
20 people go along.

21 UNIDENTIFIED: It seems like we're in a  
22 strong bargaining position.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: All right, no, no  
24 it doesn't.

25 UNIDENTIFIED: Take it easy.



1  
2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Your caucus voted  
3 aye on all.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I don't think so,  
5 they voted [laughter], they voted, sometimes that's  
6 me, not them. But I'm voting aye on all except  
7 Preconsidered Reso 889 and 890, and I vote no on  
8 those, but I vote aye on everything else. Thank you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I tried. Thank  
10 you. We're going to wait for the new tally. All  
11 items on today's general order calendar are adopted  
12 by a vote of a 48 in the affirmative, 0 negative, and  
13 0 abstentions, with the exception of LUs 403 and 404,  
14 with accompanying resos, which was adopted by a vote  
15 of 47 in the affirmative, 1 negative, and 0  
16 abstentions. Intro 322-A, which was adopted by a  
17 vote of 45 in the affirmative, 2 negative, and 1  
18 abstention. And resolution 889, which was adopted by  
19 a vote of 35 in the affirmative, 13 negative, and 0  
20 abstentions. Reso 890, which was adopted by a vote  
21 of 37 in the affirmative, 11 negative, and 0  
22 abstentions. And LU 397 and Resolution 916, which was  
23 adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative and 1  
24 negative and 0 abstentions. The revised land use  
25 call-up vote is 45 in the affirmative and 0 negative.

1  
2 We will now move into general discussion. We will  
3 hear from Council Member Antonio Reynoso, followed by  
4 Council Member Inez Barron, and followed by Council  
5 Member Cornegy.

6           COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you,  
7 Laurie. Today we begin the process of delivering  
8 justice to workers' safety to the public and  
9 sustainability to our environment, basic elements  
10 that the private sanitation industry has lacked for  
11 decades. I am introducing a bill that would divide  
12 the city into commercial waste zones. Carters will  
13 have to undergo a competitive RFP represent in order  
14 to win the right to conduct business in these zones  
15 and in this city. Zones will immediately consolidate  
16 routes, reducing costs, eliminating 12 million  
17 unnecessary truck miles per year, and ensuring that  
18 1000-stop rounds and dozens of carters servicing a  
19 single neighborhood are a thing of the past. Carters  
20 will be required to meet safety and labor standards,  
21 comply with existing recycling laws, provide organics  
22 collections to businesses, and meet customer service  
23 standards. Companies will then have to submit  
24 proposals on how they will provide adequate service,  
25

1  
2 improve waste reduction, and invest in  
3 environmental...

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Quiet in the  
5 chamber.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: ... and invest  
7 in environmentally sustainable fleets,  
8 infrastructure, and waste disposal methods. The time  
9 to act is now. Our city can no longer wait. I  
10 cannot stand the thought of another immigrant worker  
11 being killed on the job, or another child getting hit  
12 by a truck while riding his bike, or another  
13 community suffering with abnormality high asthma  
14 rates. We can and must do better. I urge all of my  
15 colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and  
16 push for a swift passage. Thank you. And I also  
17 have another to suggest. 1573, 1574, 1575, all  
18 pieces of legislation that should be addressing what  
19 I consider a very dark industry that needs some  
20 adjusting. Thank you.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
22 Council Member Reynoso. We'll go to Council Member  
23 Barron, followed by Council Member Cornegy, followed  
24 by Council Member Rodriguez, in that order.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Ah, thank you.

3

Just briefly I wanted to call attention to the

4

passing, the recent passing of Dr. Lawrence McDonald.

5

You may remember the name because we gave him a

6

citation earlier this year, and Dr. McDonald was in

7

fact...

8

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: You can come

9

down, sweetie.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: ... Dr. McDonald

11

was the founder of the African American Environmental

12

Association and he founded it because he observed

13

that there was an absence of black professionals in

14

environmental groups, and he is the one in fact who

15

brought to this body the environmental bill that we

16

passed in, I think, 2017. He recently passed. So we

17

did a great job in making sure that we acknowledge

18

his great work while he was here. And finally, you

19

know, it's difficult to, ah, vote against the

20

mechanical voids because it is in fact an improvement

21

and I did share some comments with my colleague, but

22

I thought about what Dr. Martin Luther King said when

23

he rejected the fact that people were saying a little

24

change here and a little change there. He rejected

25

that and said, no, we need to go all the way and have

1  
2 systemic change. So to my colleagues, that's what I  
3 offer in terms of justifying why I was able to say  
4 no. Thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
6 Council Member Barron. Council Member Cornegy,  
7 Council Member Rodriguez, Council Member Chin.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Events in the  
9 past few years make clear that we must take swift  
10 action to reform New York's massive commercial waste  
11 industry, which collects and manages around 12,000  
12 tons of trash, recyclables, and organics each day  
13 from thousands of businesses citywide. Critically,  
14 we must improve safety and reduce greenhouse gas  
15 emissions. We in the council can achieve those goals  
16 swiftly and effectively alongside administration  
17 officials, advocates, labor unions, the business  
18 community, and industry leaders. But we must  
19 approach it in a rational way that address problems  
20 and challenges without upending a system that largely  
21 benefitted all types of businesses, especially our  
22 local food markets and bodegas at a time when so many  
23 are still struggling to stay open. This is why we  
24 cannot support a proposal to create commercial waste  
25 zones. Instead, we should support legislation that

1  
2 enables us to improve the industry without killing  
3 jobs and without harming the small businesses it  
4 serves each day. To that end, I sincerely hope that  
5 you will join me in advancing a bill I introduced  
6 last year, Intro 996, which will protect our  
7 environment, our neighborhoods, and the jobs of the  
8 people who have traditionally been left out of the  
9 job market. Instead of spending millions of dollars  
10 and waiting years, we can make these important and  
11 needed changes in the private waste industry now.  
12 Thank you.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.  
14 Council Member Rodriguez, then we will close with  
15 Council Member Chin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. I  
17 would like to invite my colleagues and all New  
18 Yorkers who pay attention to the hearing that we will  
19 have tomorrow, a joint hearing in the Committee Hall,  
20 Park and Transportation, as we will be holding  
21 oversight on Hart Allen. Everyone knows that here in  
22 New York City a few minutes away from City Island we  
23 have one of the largest public cemeteries in the  
24 nation being here. Unfortunately, for more than a  
25 hundred years we have not given the dignity and

1  
2 respect to more than one million people, more than a  
3 million bodies being buried on that island. Those  
4 people that were individuals killed during the Civil  
5 War, that they were black, that they were Latino,  
6 that [inaudible] people that they didn't want to be  
7 buried together with the black and Latino. They are  
8 the poorest. They are immigrants. They are  
9 individuals that they died during the HIV. After we  
10 [inaudible] the walk together with Speaker Johnson we  
11 came back with a commitment that we need to work  
12 together and the idea is that we would transfer the  
13 control of Hart Island from Correctional to Park,  
14 that we would put together a plan of transportation.  
15 So with a little [inaudible] support Speaker Johnson  
16 and the rest of the colleagues, I hope that tomorrow  
17 at the hearing we will hear many answers to the  
18 question on how we can give the [inaudible] respect  
19 to more than one million bodies being buried in Hart  
20 Island. You know, someone who would like to visit a  
21 loved one who has been buried in that place should  
22 not be escorted by someone from Correctional. So,  
23 again, everyone is invited, tomorrow is the hearing  
24 at 10:00 a.m.

1  
2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We  
3 will now move to Council Member Chin and we will  
4 close with Council Member Rose.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Majority  
6 Leader. At every Stated Meeting Speaker Johnson  
7 makes space for council members to recognize the  
8 lives of individuals who have succumbed to 911-  
9 related illness. It is a stark reminder that now  
10 more than ever we must do all we can to expand  
11 services and compensation provided to the survivors,  
12 first responders, and workers around the World Trade  
13 Center site. It's also a reminder that our council  
14 and our city refuse to turn our backs on these  
15 heroes, right now, not ever. Not now, not ever.  
16 With the 911 Victim Compensation Fund set to expire  
17 next year, we know that there is no other option but  
18 to advocate for its permanent authorization. This  
19 lifesaving program should not be attached to  
20 deadlines, especially as more and more individuals  
21 have come forward with their illness every year.  
22 That is why I am proud to joint Council Member  
23 Miller, Borelli, Richard, Treyger, and Cohen to  
24 introduce a resolution, Resolution 897, in support of  
25 the Never Forget the Heroes Act, sponsored by



1  
2 Congresswoman Maloney and Senator Gillibrand to fully  
3 finance and extend the 911 Victim Compensation Fund  
4 until FY2090. Our leaders at all levels of  
5 government must deliver on our commitment to these  
6 survivors. I thank Speaker Corey Johnson for his  
7 unwavering advocacy on this issue and Council Member  
8 Miller on his partnership, and I encourage all my  
9 colleagues to support this resolution. Thank you.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
11 Council Member Chin. We will now move to Council  
12 Member Debbie Rose, who will close us out.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you so much,  
14 Majority Leader. I want to again thank Speaker Corey  
15 Johnson for being such a vocal advocate for our most  
16 vulnerable youth and thank you for sponsoring and  
17 allowing us to have this day. You made it very  
18 special, Speaker, for these young people. And I want  
19 to thank all of you who participated in our Foster  
20 Youth Shadow Day, and I want say, I want to thank  
21 Steve Levin, because he's been such an advocate for  
22 this population that is in need of services, and I'd  
23 like to just invite all of you to participate  
24 immediately after Stated in the committee room in our  
25 Foster Youth Shadow Day round table. I hope that you

1  
2 get to meet these young people. They are phenomenal.  
3 I hope you share your business cards with them. And  
4 I hope that you form a relationship so that they,  
5 too, know that they have access to not only  
6 government but to caring individuals that have their  
7 best interest at heart. Thank you all.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and I  
9 just want to close out as well by thanking everyone  
10 that participated in today's program. For me, I  
11 hadn't entered into the halls of City Hall until I  
12 was in my thirties. So you all are certainly ahead  
13 of the game. You are dynamic young people. I've  
14 been thrilled to have my black girl magic up here  
15 today, which has been phenomenal, and the challenges  
16 that you all have faced you have overcome and you are  
17 sitting here today as victors. You are stronger than  
18 you know. You have overcome more than most, and  
19 because of that you are so much stronger and have the  
20 ability to take on challenges that some people  
21 couldn't even think about overcoming. So we hope to  
22 one day see you in these chambers. We hope that  
23 you'll come back to visit again and again. You are  
24 always welcomed at City Hall, particularly for the  
25 Stated Meeting, and I just want to close, I'm so

1  
2 happy to see so many of the dynamic men here. You  
3 are doing phenomenal work. We in the City Council,  
4 as chair of the Women's Issues Committee, in 2021 we  
5 want to see 21 women elected to this chamber and in  
6 2025 we want to see 41 women elected to this chamber.  
7 We'll save a space for them. We'll save a space for  
8 you. But I just want to thank you all for your  
9 advocacy and leadership, and thank you all for being  
10 here. We will now have Speaker Corey Johnson close  
11 us out, and thank you all again for being the true  
12 rock stars that you are. You are inspiration to us  
13 all.

14           SPEAKER JOHNSON: I can't say it better  
15 than Debbie and Laurie said it. I am so grateful  
16 that you are all here today. We look forward to  
17 continuing a relationship with all of you. Thank you  
18 for participating. Thank you for your incredible  
19 hard work and leadership. We're so excited to see  
20 what the future holds for our city with all of you.  
21 And with that, the Stated Meeting of May 29, 2019,  
22 stands in recess. Thank you very much.

23           MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

24 [gavel]

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date June 17, 2019