

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
STATED MEETING

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March 24, 2022
Start: 2:13 p.m.
Recess: 3:24 p.m.

HELD AT: Hybrid Hearing
Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Adrienne E. Adams
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Shaun Abreu
- Joann Ariola
- Alexa Avilés
- Diana Ayala
- Charles Barron
- Joseph C. Borelli
- Erik D. Bottcher
- Justin L. Brannan
- Gale A. Brewer
- Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
- Tiffany Cabán
- David M. Carr
- Carmen N. De La Rosa
- Eric Dinowitz
- Amanda Farías
- Oswald Feliz

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

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

Reverend Doctor Lynn Sexton
Pastor of Sacred Fellowship Ministries

2 UNIDENTIFIED: Good afternoon everyone.

3 Welcome to today's hybrid New York City Council

4 Stated Meeting. At this time would all panelists

5 please turn on your videos for verification purposes?

6 To minimize disruption, please place electronic

7 devices to vibrate or silent. Thank you for your

8 cooperation. Majority Leader, we are ready to begin.

9 [gavel]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Good afternoon

11 and welcome to the Stated Meeting of March 24th,

12 2022. I'm Majority Leader Keith Powers. I'd like to

13 thank everyone for joining us here today. If you'd

14 like to follow along, the agenda for today's meeting

15 is posted on the City Council website.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Please join us for the

17 Pledge of Allegiance.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Roll call.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Abreu?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Present.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Ariola?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Present.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Avilés?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Presente.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Bottcher?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Present.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Present.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Present.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabán?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Carr?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Present.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: De La Rosa?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Present.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Dinowitz?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Present.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Farías?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Feliz?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Presente.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Guitiérrez?
COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Presente.
COUNCIL CLERK: Hanif?
COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Hanks?
COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Holden?
COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Hudson?
COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Joseph?
COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Kagan?
COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Krishnan?
COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Lee?
COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Louis?
COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Marte?
COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Menin?
COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Moya?
COMMISSIONER MOLINA: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Narcisse?
COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Nurse?
COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Ossé?
COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Paladino?
COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Restler?
COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Richardson-Jordan?
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Riley?
COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera?
COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?
COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Sanchez? Schulman?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ung?

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Velázquez?

COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Vernikov?

COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Won?

COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?

COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli?

COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: [inaudible]

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I'm confused by
Minority Leader Borelli's response, but I am here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Adams?

SPEAKER ADAMS: I'm present.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We
3 have a quorum. We are now going to have today's
4 invocation which will be delivered by Reverend Doctor
5 Lynn Sexton, Pastor of Sacred Fellowship Ministries,
6 which is located at 2519 Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn.
7 Welcome.

8 REVEREND DR. LYNN SEXTON: Gracious God,
9 here we are your people in your presence again. You
10 are the source of our strength and the strength of
11 our lives, and we enter this meeting on today with
12 thanksgiving, knowing that we are divinely ordered to
13 be here in this moment in time in history on purpose
14 with a purpose. We welcome your presence and look to
15 you for all that we need in this time together.
16 Lord, please lift us, fill us, prepare and open us to
17 the diversity of our voices and gifts which you gave
18 to each of us as a blessing to the universe. We're
19 also bringing excitement to what will happen today,
20 because we know that you do all things well.
21 Therefore, we thank you in advance for all that will
22 come out of our time together, and for the blessing
23 that will flow to those whom we serve. We ask and
24 claim these things in the name of all that is holy.
25 Amen.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you, Pastor
3 Sexton. I'm now going to ask Council Member Sandy
4 Nurse to please spread the invocation on the record
5 today.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Thank you,
7 Majority Leader. I would like to thank Pastor
8 Reverend Doctor Lynn R. Sexton of Sacred Fellowship
9 Ministries for being here today, and I make a motion
10 for unanimous consent to spread the invocation in
11 full upon the record.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you,
13 Council Member Nurse. We'll now have the adoption of
14 minutes by Council Member Julie Menin.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: I make a motion
16 that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of February
17 24th, 2022 be adopted as printed.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you.
19 Messages and papers from the Mayor?

20 COUNCIL CLERK: M39 through M45
21 Districting Commission appointments.

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, ordered,
23 printed and filed.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Communication
25 from City, County, and Borough Offices.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Petitions and
4 Communications?

5 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Land Use Call-
7 ups?

8 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're
10 now going to hear from our Speaker Adrienne Adams.

11 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority
12 Leader. Good afternoon everyone and happy, happy
13 Thursday. Just a quick reminder once again that
14 masks are strongly encouraged to be worn throughout
15 our Stated Meeting here in Chambers. Welcome to the
16 first Stated Meeting of Spring, even though we're
17 still waiting for spring to sprung. With the new
18 season upon us, I'm hopeful that better days are
19 ahead for our city and for our country. Today, we're
20 voting on three resolutions and several finance and
21 Land Use items. Before we begin, though, I want to
22 pay tribute to the historic nomination of Judge
23 Ketanji Brown Jackson.

24 [applause]

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2 SPEAKER ADAMS: Wow. Thank you
3 colleagues. I wasn't expecting that. That's
4 fabulous. Judge Jackson who if confirmed would be
5 the first black woman to serve on the United States
6 Supreme Court. Yesterday, Judge Jackson finished her
7 last day of testimony and questioning in the United
8 States Senate. She withstood harsh criticism and
9 often unfair critiques of her decisions and she did
10 that with poise, composure, and grace. So today, as
11 I stand in total awe of Judge Jackson, I'm wearing
12 the colors of black and blue, the same colors that
13 she wore yesterday on the final day of her
14 Confirmation Hearing. We're witnessing history
15 before our very eyes, and I want to take a moment to
16 acknowledge once again the amazing Judge Ketanji
17 Brown Jackson and celebrate her nomination.

18 [applause]

19 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you so much. Okay,
20 so pivoting to some other thoughts. I'd also like to
21 take a few moments to talk about the anniversaries of
22 two horrific tragedies that changed our city. On
23 March 25th, 1911 a ferocious fire at the Triangle
24 Shirtwaist Company Factory in Greenwich Village
25 killed 146 workers, mostly immigrant workers and

1 girls who were working in sweatshops. The tragedy at
2 the garment factory is still the deadliest industrial
3 disaster in the City of New York in our history, but
4 this abominable tragedy catalyzed the American labor
5 movement by bringing to light the awful and dangerous
6 working conditions immigrant workers had to endure.
7 More than 100 years later, we continue to fight for
8 workers' rights. We've come a long way and made
9 great advances, but the struggle continues, and we
10 will continue to strive until all workers receive the
11 rights and safe conditions they deserve. And on
12 March 25th, 1990, 87 immigrant New Yorkers were
13 killed at the Happy Land Social Club in the Bronx.
14 The arson trapped the victims as they were
15 celebrating Carnival. The club didn't have a
16 license, and it didn't have fire alarms, sprinklers,
17 or fire exits. The venue was ordered to be closed
18 because of building violations more than a year
19 before the fire even occurred. After the tragedy,
20 the City's Department of Buildings increased efforts
21 to crack down on illegal clubs across the City. New
22 mandatory fire safety regulations were put in place
23 to prevent people at clubs and other venues from
24 being trapped in fires. We're continuing these
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2 efforts to keep homes, businesses and all buildings
3 in our city safe from preventable fires, especially
4 in the wake of the tragic Twin Parks fire earlier
5 this year in Council Member Feliz's district that
6 killed and displaced so many. That's why we created
7 the Twin Parks Citywide Taskforce on fire prevention
8 to prevent these tragedies that have sadly been
9 experienced in too many of our districts in just the
10 past several weeks. Today, the first pieces of
11 legislation that can help protect New Yorkers from
12 these fires will be introduced by Council Member
13 Oswald Feliz. We will continue to advance solutions
14 through the leadership of the taskforce, our
15 committees, and all of you. Over the past two weeks,
16 this body has continued its work of holding oversight
17 hearings regarding the pressing issues facing New
18 Yorkers. We've seen our chairs and members hold
19 agencies accountable with professionalism and great
20 skill. The hearings that I've witnessed, and yes, I
21 do often pop up into different virtual hearings--
22 even if I don't seek to formally engage in
23 questioning-- have been a pleasure to observe and
24 were extremely informative as our members dig into
25 the granular details of policy and agency operations

1 on behalf of their constituents and all New Yorkers.
2
3 At the same time, we've been working through a full
4 schedule of our first Preliminary Budget hearings as
5 a new body, and that work has preceded in similar
6 fashion to our oversight hearings. Our last
7 Preliminary Budget hearing will be tomorrow, and
8 we've been able to surface the gaps that we know
9 would affect our constituents in the process. I want
10 to thank our Finance Committee Chair, Council Member
11 Justin Brannan, and our entire Finance Division led
12 by Tenisha Edwards [sp?] for their steadfast work
13 thus far.

14 [applause]

15 SPEAKER ADAMS: This is the important
16 work of this council, the members and staff, and
17 scrutinizing the details for the people of our city.
18 At the end of next week, we will be putting forth the
19 Council's Preliminary Budget response that is
20 informed by those hearings and by all of you. We
21 will put forth the Council's vision for a budget that
22 invests in our communities with equity as a path to a
23 healthier, safer, and stronger city. I thank each and
24 every one of you for your work thus far in bringing
25 the perspectives of your constituents to this

1 process. This is only the first step in the budget
2 process, and we will continue to move into new phases
3 of this process. Our collective strength as a body
4 is our power and the hard work of negotiating an
5 equitable budget that meets the needs of our
6 communities will be the work ahead. And lastly,
7 before moving on to our agenda, I want to happily
8 acknowledge that we have a new member of our Council
9 family, and extend our congratulations to Council
10 Member Julie Won and her family on the birth--

12 [applause]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Thank you so much.

14 SPEAKER ADAMS: on the birth of their
15 beautiful baby boy. Congratulations Council Member
16 Won.

17 [applause]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Thank you.

19 SPEAKER ADAMS: We also want to welcome
20 back Council Member Shahana Hanif.

21 [applause]

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Hanif
23 is a survivor of Lupus and a true advocate for
24 disability justice. You are an inspiration to this
25 body. We welcome you back, Council Member.

[applause]

SPEAKER ADAMS: Okay, now let's get into our agenda for the day. We will be voting on the following Land Use items. Council 111107-111 East 123rd Street, a UDAP project approval and special permit to increase the floor area for new construction of a 15-story nonprofit institution with sleeping accommodations. It will include approximately 81 housing units; 58 units will be for supportive housing, and the rest of the units will be permanently affordable in Council Member Richardson-Jordan's district. East New York One Urban Renewal Plan, Fifth Amendment. The amendment would update the use designation of site number 122 from open space to residential use. This will facilitate a three-story building to include four units in Council Member Charles Barron's district. Finally, and Land Use Chair Rafael Salamanca, Junior's district, we will be voting on a technical amendment to Council Resolution 753 for the year 2019 related to the disposition of city-owned property of Belmont Cove to indicate that such disposition was approved. We will also be voting the following two finance items. First, Pre-considered Resolution 79 would set an

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2 April 7th hearing on a Local Law that would
3 accomplish the proposed expansion and renaming of the
4 Sutphin Boulevard BID, which is in Council Member
5 Natasha Williams and James Gennaro's district, and is
6 immediately adjacent to my own district 28. Second,
7 Pre-considered Resolution 100, the Southern and
8 Willis Affordable Housing Project consisting of five
9 buildings clustered in Council Member Diana Ayala's
10 district would receive a full 40-year Article XI tax
11 exemption to preserve the deep affordability of 76
12 residential units with AMIs ranging from 50 percent
13 to 90 percent. In our legislative agenda today we're
14 voting on three resolutions. Resolution 55A, which I
15 sponsor with Council Member Sandy Nurse, calls upon
16 Governor Kathy Hochul and the state legislature to
17 create an extended producer responsibility system for
18 packing and printed paper. Printed paper and
19 packaging constitute approximately 40 percent of the
20 materials managed by municipalities and solid waste
21 authorities in the State, and cost New York City
22 hundreds of millions of dollars a year to manage.
23 Extended producer responsibility is a policy approach
24 in which producers, both brand owners and importers,
25 are responsible for the management of post-consumer

1 products and packaging so that those who produce such
2 materials help bear the cost of recycling. The
3 proposed 2022 and 2023 State Executive Budget
4 includes funding to establish an extended producer
5 responsibility system for consumer packaging and
6 printed paper that would require producers to
7 reimburse municipalities for recycling the packaging
8 and printed paper they produce. We want to thank
9 staff Jessica Steinberg Albin [sp?] and Ricky Chuala
10 [sp?] for their help on this legislation. Our second
11 for today's Stated is Resolution 24, sponsored by
12 Council Member Crystal Hudson, which calls upon the
13 State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign,
14 the Fair Pay for Homecare Act. New York has a larger
15 need for homecare than ever before and is at the
16 center of a national homecare workforce crisis.
17 Individuals are going without services or becoming
18 institutionalized because there are not enough
19 homecare workers. Over the next 10 years, the Public
20 Health Services-- the Public Health Institute
21 estimates that homecare, including consumer-directed
22 personal assistance should add more new jobs than any
23 other occupation in the State. Additionally, other
24 estimates point out that despite this rapid growth
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1 potential, our state will face a shortage of at least
2 80,000 homecare workers by 2025. The primary reason
3 is that homecare aids are among the lowest paid
4 workers in the State, averaging just 22,000 dollars
5 in annual earnings. The New York State Senate Aging
6 Committee issued a report that found that more than
7 one in seven low-wage workers in New York City is a
8 homecare worker. One in four homecare workers live
9 below the federal poverty level, and over half rely
10 on public assistance. The Fair Pay for Homecare Act
11 will respond to this crisis by providing a fair wage
12 to these workers. New York State Senator Rachel May
13 and Assembly Member Richard Gottfried introduced
14 S5374A and A6329A entitled the Fair Pay for Homecare
15 Act to raise homecare wages to 150 percent of the
16 minimum wage allowing homecare workers to make at
17 least, at least, 35,000 dollars a year on average. A
18 recent study by the CUNY School of Labor and Urban
19 Studies and funded by the New York State Office for
20 the Aging found that if wages were increased at the
21 scale outlined in the legislation and funded
22 appropriately, the homecare workforce shortage could
23 be solved in less than five years, and we'd like to
24 thank our staff Elizabeth Artz [sp?] for her hard
25

1 work on this legislation. Our third and last
2 resolution on today's agenda is Resolution 25, co-
3 sponsored by Council Members Mercedes Narcisse and
4 Tiffany Cabán, which calls upon the New York State
5 Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign A8619
6 and S7573 which would remove barriers for victims and
7 survivors of crime to access victim compensation
8 funds. In the state of New York, the Office of
9 Victim Services provides direct financial assistance
10 and reimbursement to or on behalf of victims and
11 survivors of violent crimes for out-of-pocket
12 expenses that result from the crime. This can
13 include medical costs, funeral and burial costs,
14 mental health counseling, and lost wages or loss of
15 support. The Office of Victim Services is a payer of
16 last resort which means a victim or survivor of a
17 crime of family member must exhaust all other sources
18 of compensation such as benefits from health or other
19 insurance policies or workers' compensation before
20 the agency can provide financial assistance.
21 However, victims and survivors often do not report
22 crimes for a variety of reasons, including fear of
23 retaliation, trauma, mistrust in law enforcement, the
24 age and/or other demographics of a victim or
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1 survivor, or the dynamics of an intimate partner
2 relationship. As a result, in the United States less
3 than three percent of all victims receive any victim
4 compensation due to the restrictive eligibility
5 requirements that make it inaccessible for many in
6 communities of color, and the LGBTQI+ community,
7 working class people, young people, those with
8 disabilities, and immigrants. While black men under
9 the age of 35, living in urban areas with annual
10 incomes below 25,000 dollars are more likely to be
11 victimized than any other group, they are least
12 likely to receive victim compensation. The largest
13 recipient of victim compensation are white women
14 above the age of 55, living in non-urban areas with
15 annual incomes greater than 75,000 dollars. Enacting
16 this legislation would not only refine current law,
17 but provide greater access to recovery resources for
18 many neglected and underserved victims and survivors
19 of violence that experience the most frequent harms
20 of violence, and we'd like to thank our staff member
21 Chloe Rivera [sp?] for her great work on this
22 legislation. Thank you for your attention, and now
23 I'd like to turn it back over to our Majority Leader.
24

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you,
3 Speaker Adams. We're now going to move into
4 discussion of general orders. If you are interested
5 in speaking right now, then we will-- just raise your
6 hand. You can raise it on Zoom. We'll add you to
7 the list. I believe we have first Council Member--
8 anyone? Okay. Then we are going to move to the
9 report of special committees.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Oh sorry, sorry.
12 We have one hand. Sorry, sorry. We have Council
13 Member Williams.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I'm
15 still getting adjusted to this procedural process.
16 Thank you Speaker Adams for your leadership and
17 Majority Leader Keith Powers. Today, I'm proud to be
18 a member of this diverse body and excited to be
19 introducing my first set of bills. As we heard from
20 the Speaker, what happened on January--

21 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: [interposing]
22 Council Member Williams, I think we're moving into
23 the--

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [interposing]
25 OH, no, this is not--

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: [interposing] I
3 think it's for general discussion. Apologies. We'll
4 sign you up. We'll add you to that. This is for any
5 items that we're voting on today here, on the agenda
6 today. And a very big congratulations. If you're
7 here to speak on item that we're voting on today,
8 that's for general orders. We'll have general
9 discussion later for other items that are bills
10 introduced, resolutions being introduced, things like
11 that, and we'll also have an opportunity to speak on
12 the resolutions that we're voting on today. Okay,
13 we're going to call on-- I believe she's on Zoom,
14 Council Member Richardson Jordan.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Hi,
16 yes, I would just like the opportunity to tell the
17 body that I'm very excited about the Land Use item
18 that is in my district. It is Castle 3. We often
19 hear a lot about projects that are furthering the
20 gentrification of our neighborhood, but this is
21 something that would really be an asset to Harlem.
22 It is 100 percent affordable. It has 58 units of
23 supportive housing for those who are formerly
24 houseless and/or formerly incarcerated, and then it
25 has 24 units that are in various spots on the AMI.

1 We have two at 30 percent AMI. We have two at 40
2 percent AMI, six at 50 percent AMI, and 12 at 60
3 percent of the AMI. And like I said, there's another
4 58 units that are supportive housing that are locked
5 in at 30 percent of the constituent's income. So, I
6 urge Council Members to please support this Land Use
7 item, Castle 3.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you,
10 Council Member. Anyone else signed up? Okay. We're
11 now going to go to the report of special committees.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Reports of
14 standing committees.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
16 on Finance, pre-considered Reso. 79, Sutphin
17 Boulevard BID.

18 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General
19 Orders.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Pre-considered LU31 and
21 Reso. 100 Tax Exemption.

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General
23 Orders.

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on
3 Land Use LU13 and Reso. 101, and LU14 and Reso. 102,
4 Castle Three, 107111 East 123rd Street.

5 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General
6 Orders.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: LU15 and Reso. 103 East
8 New York Urban Renewal Plan.

9 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General
10 Orders.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: LU16 through LU27,
12 various rezonings.

13 SPEAKER ADAMS: Approved with
14 modifications and referred to the City Planning
15 Commission pursuant to Section 1970 of the New York
16 City Charter.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: LU28 and Reso. 104,
18 Belmont Cove Technical Correction.

19 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General
20 Orders.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Resolution appointing
22 various persons, Commissioner of Deeds.

23 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General
24 Orders, and I would now ask that the Clerk take a
25

roll call vote on all of the items coupled on today's
General Orders Calendar.

COUNCIL CLERK: Guitiérrez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Moya?

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Abreu?

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ariola?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Avilés?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala?

COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: May I explain my
vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Go ahead.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: First of all, I
want to congratulate Council Member Richardson Jordan
for a 100 percent affordability. That's the way to
do it. Congratulations, and for the project in my
area that's going to be affordable, that was a
technical change, and I'm voting aye on all on those

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2 items on-- I think it's LU31 on the Article XI. I'm
3 going to abstain from that, because I want to see
4 more about the 90 percent AMI for the new vote that
5 can come in. But I understand what they have to do
6 for the people present. So I'm abstaining from that
7 vote. Aye on all the rest.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Bottcher?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye on all.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye on
16 all.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabán

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye on all.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Carr?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye on all.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: De La Rosa?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Dinowitz?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Farías?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: I vote aye on
3 all.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Feliz?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Hanif?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye on all.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Hanks?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye on all.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Holden?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Hudson?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Joseph?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Kagan?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Aye on all.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Krishnan?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye on all.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Lee?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Marte?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy? Menin?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Narcisse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Nurse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ossé?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Restler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Richardson Jordan?

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Aye on
all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Sanchez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Schulman?

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ung?

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Velázquez?

COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Vernikov?

COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Won?

COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?

COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: May I be excused

to explain my vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Go ahead.

COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you, Mr.

President. I'll just be very brief. I want to explain to my new colleagues of why I will be voting no on one item on this agenda, and I won't have to make the speech the rest of the term, but just for

1 consistency. I have typically voted against items in
2 this Council that have increased the boundaries of
3 BIDs or have increased the amount of assessments on
4 BIDs. It's not because I don't support BIDs. I
5 think BIDs are wonderful and they do incredible work,
6 but I view it as a tax increase, because the purpose
7 of BIDs is to supplement the service that those who
8 are in the BIDs should be receiving from the City of
9 New York. They're not receiving this service from
10 the City of New York, so thus the BID had to be
11 created so that trash is picked up, streets are kept
12 clean, services are provided. Those services are
13 already paid for. I would support expanding the size
14 of BIDs and the amounts charged by BIDs if the
15 property owners in those BID catchment areas would
16 receive a credit against their taxes for the amount
17 that they're paying towards the BID because they're
18 in essence being double-taxed because of the failure
19 by the City of New York to provide very basic
20 services. So, for that reason-- and I won't have to
21 make this speech again, because now you know why I'll
22 do this for the rest of my term-- I vote aye on all
23 with the exception of Resolution 79. Thank you.

24
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye on all.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Adams?

8 SPEAKER ADAMS: I vote aye on all.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. All
10 items on today's General Order Calendar are adopted
11 by a vote of 51 in the affirmative, 0 negative, and 0
12 abstentions, with the exception of Land Use item 31--
13 quiet please-- with the exceptions of Land Use 31 and
14 Resolution 100 which was adopted by a vote of 50 in
15 the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 1 abstention,
16 and Resolution 79 which is adopted by a vote of 50 in
17 the affirmative, 1 in the negative, and 0
18 abstentions. We're now going to go to introduction
19 and reading of bills.

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: All bills have been
21 referred to committees as indicated on today's
22 agenda.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We
24 will now move into the discussion of today's
25 resolutions. If you'd like to sign up for that, we

1 will take a hand, and we can raise your hand on Zoom
2 and we will add you to our list. We're going to
3 start today with Council Member Cabán.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you. I want
5 to start by saying I'm enormously proud to join
6 Council Member Narcisse in urging my colleagues to
7 pass this important resolution. Although my tenure as
8 Chair of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity has
9 so far been brief, even in our first hearing it
10 became crystal clear how badly needed this resolution
11 truly is. The fact is that there are many, many
12 reasons that survivors opt not to file police
13 reports, negative past interactions with law
14 enforcement, fear of deportation, fear of arrest,
15 fear of transphobic abuse, and more. Under the
16 current rules, all those people are ineligible for
17 compensation funds. That is an immoral, unjust set-
18 up, and it is critical that we remove this crucial
19 barrier to survivors accessing the support they need
20 and deserve. Our resolution urges our colleagues in
21 Albany to do just that. I want to again thank Council
22 Member Narcisse for her work on this resolution, her
23 advocacy for survivors, and her contributions to the
24 hearing I mentioned earlier. It is an honor to be
25

1 co-prime on this vital resolution on which I
2 encourage all of y'all to vote aye. Thank you.

3
4 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We
5 now go to Council Member Narcisse.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Thank you.
7 Thank you, leader. When a system is broken, as
8 elected officials, it is our duty to fix it. There's
9 no doubt that accessing crime victim compensation is
10 part of a broken system. In the United States each
11 year, over 50 percent of violent victimizations go
12 unreported to law enforcement. The law enforcement
13 reporting requirement for victim compensation
14 adversely impacts black and brown communities who are
15 less likely than other groups to report crime to law
16 enforcement due to decades of strained
17 police/community relations. Black men with low
18 income living in New York City are more likely to be
19 criminally victimized than any other group, but are
20 among those least likely to receive victim
21 compensation. Other marginalized populations include
22 immigrants, members of LGBTQIA+ community survivors
23 of gender-based violence often also choose not to
24 report crime to the police due to fear of
25 retaliation, fear of deportation, or unfair

1 treatment, or the dynamics of inter-partner
2 relationships. When conversely the majority of the
3 recipient of victim compensation are white women
4 between the ages of 29 to 59. This is a broken
5 system. We stand together ready to do our part to
6 fix it. Allow me to thank the Committee on Women and
7 Gender Equity Chair Tiffany Cabán, my colleagues who
8 all joined today and the Speaker who allowed us to
9 bring it in. Today, the past Resolution 0025 which
10 calls upon the New York State Legislature to pass
11 8619A, S7573 to expand eligibility for victim and
12 survivors of crime to access victim compensation, and
13 we ask the Governor to sign it. Let's hope this
14 resolution will serve as a catalyst for change and
15 help fix this glaring inequity and allow every New
16 Yorker, no matter their race, gender, religion, or
17 sexual preference to have the opportunity to heal and
18 access the benefits they are entitled to. So, it is
19 my pleasure to say thank you to all my colleagues and
20 looking forward [inaudible]. Thank you the
21 supporting [inaudible].

22
23 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. And
24 I'll go to Council Member Brewer.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very
3 much. Two things: One, I want to say thank you to
4 the Speaker for mentioning the Triangle Waist fire.
5 I just want to also add that, you know, the memorial
6 is this week as she indicated, and the wonderful
7 volunteers there are also erecting a permanent public
8 memorial on the façade of the building where the fire
9 took place. It has many, many years of funding and
10 permits, but it is going forward. and I also just
11 want to thank Council Members Hudson and Powers and
12 Sanchez and Feliz, because I know there is a bill
13 that we're introducing that talks about the need for
14 the-- the heat season to be very clear to those who
15 are experiencing it and to those who are the
16 inspectors, and I know that the room temperature has
17 never been what it should be for those who are in
18 apartments and need to make sure that their apartment
19 is correctly heated. I want to thank particularly
20 Council Member Hudson. Thank you very much.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. Anyone
22 else like to speak on today's resolutions? Okay.
23 Thank you. We'll now do a voice vote on today's
24 resolutions. If you wish to vote against or abstain
25 from any of today's resolutions, please notify the

1
2 Legislative Documents Unit by email or approaching
3 the dais now or after the-- or before the vote. If
4 anyone wants to come up. I'll now read today's
5 resolutions into the record. Resolution 24 calls
6 upon the State Legislature to pass and the Governor
7 to sign Senate bill 5374A and Assembly bill number
8 6329A, also known as the Fair Pay for Homecare Act.
9 With all those in favor please say aye.

10 ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Will all opposed
12 say nay? Any abstentions? The ayes have it.
13 Resolution 25 calls upon the New York City
14 Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign Assembly
15 bill number 8619A and Senate bill number 7573 which
16 would expand eligibility for victims and survivors of
17 crime to access victim compensation funds. Will all
18 those in favor please say aye?

19 ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: All opposed say
21 nay. And abstentions? The ayes have it. And our
22 last Resolution today is 55A which calls upon
23 Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State
24 Legislature to establish an extended producer
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responsibility system for packaging and printed paper. Will all those in favor please say aye?

ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: All opposed please say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.

Thank you. We're now going to move into the General Discussion. I will note we have a long list so we

are going to hold folks as much as we can to their

allotted time. I will now first call-- if you want

to sign up, please raise your hand or you can come up

and notify us. I'll first call now on Minority

Leader Joe Borelli.

COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Thank you,

Majority Leader. Today, I'm rising to discuss

today's announcement regarding the vaccine mandate

that the Mayor has made. I think we can all agree

that this is a move in the correct direction. We

certainly all want to root for our local sports team.

We certainly all want to root for our economic

recovery, but there's-- excuse me? But there's no

justification for having two classes of people,

having one class of people who play basketball but

another class of people who stamp tickets in the

arena, or another class of people who sell hot dogs

1 in the arena. There's no justification for having
2 two classes of athletes. Basketball shouldn't be a
3 high-risk sport for our PSAL students who are out
4 there competing for scholarships, generally doing the
5 right thing, staying off the streets, keeping
6 healthy. And there's really no conceivable
7 justification for allowing an exemption for a certain
8 class of entertainers while at the same time we're
9 firing 1,400 of our own employees. Now, we all agree
10 with Mayor Eric Adams about the need for economic
11 recovery. Our unemployment rate is still much higher
12 than the national average, but if the vaccine mandate
13 ws important enough to exempt, two, three, four,
14 maybe five people because they were impeding our
15 economic recovery, what does that say for the
16 thousands of people who have chosen not to be
17 vaccinated? We've done our best. We've tried. We
18 have vaccination centers everywhere over the city.
19 We've encouraged people. We've all gotten
20 vaccinated, I think, here. We're all pushing for
21 people to get vaccinated, but at some point we have
22 to acknowledge that some folks are just going to
23 choose not to. And we can't set up one exempt status
24 based on how much we like them or what type of work
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1 they do. We're only having this conversation, not to
2 mention, because we are one of the few places in the
3 country that has a private sector vaccine mandate.
4 So next week, next Stated, excuse me, we'll be
5 introducing a resolution to call on the Mayor to end
6 the vaccine-- private sector vaccine mandate and to
7 immediately rehire our 1,400 city employees that we
8 all cheered on during the vaccination-- during the
9 pandemic. So I hope you all will support me in
10 sending the message. Thank you.

12 [applause]

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Hello. It's
15 really great to be back in City Hall. I'm excited to
16 be introducing two bills today. The first is an
17 important, urgent fire safety bill Intro. 106 that
18 I'm super proud to introduce alongside Public
19 Advocate Jumaane Williams and Council Members
20 Sanchez, Powers, and Feliz. In New York City,
21 landlords have an obligation to their tenants to
22 provide adequate heating, but as we all know, far too
23 often this obligation is not met and residents are
24 forced to resort to using electric space heaters to
25 stay warm. As we saw in the devastating Tureg Kunda

1 [sp?] or Twin Parks fire in Council Member Feliz's
2 district, these heaters often lack key safety
3 features, which can lead to deadly fires. Our bill
4 will help prevent avoidable tragedies from occurring
5 by banning the sale of heaters that don't
6 automatically shut off when the device overheats or
7 tips over. I'm grateful to my colleague for their
8 partnership here, and I hope you will join us in
9 sponsoring it. We know it will save lives. This is
10 the first of many steps I know this Council will take
11 to protect the lives of working class tenants. The
12 second is Reso. 84 in support of the New York State
13 Coverage for All Act, which I'm thrilled to be
14 introducing with Council Members Abreu, Moya,
15 Schulman, and Lee. This Act would create equality in
16 affordable healthcare plan for low-income,
17 undocumented New Yorkers who are currently excluded
18 from Medicaid. It is estimated that over 2,000
19 undocumented New Yorkers died of COVID-19 due to lack
20 of health coverage. That is not okay. That cannot
21 be our city. We need to right this wrong and ensure
22 people get the care they need. I encourage folks to
23 join our effort to get this critical legislation
24 included in the upcoming state budget. This is a
25

1
2 truly urgent campaign and the Council's support here
3 will be critical in getting it across the finish
4 line. Thank you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
6 now go to Council Member Gennaro followed by Council
7 Member Kagan.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you, Mr.
9 Leader. Today I am putting for a Reso in the
10 Education Committee regarding the Sikh holiday of
11 Baisakhi. I'm doing this with my colleague right next
12 door, Council Member Lee and also Council Member
13 Joseph who is the Chair, of course, of the Education
14 Committee. I'm proud to move this resolution forward
15 to honor the many contributions of the Sikh
16 community. For decades, Sikh New Yorkers have
17 received very little recognition for their efforts,
18 and unlike the holidays of other religious groups,
19 the Sikh holiday of Baisakhi is not widely known or
20 recognized, and Sikhs are among the nation's most
21 targeted religious groups and are much more likely
22 than their fellow Americans to have the experience of
23 hate crimes because of their distinct appearance,
24 including the wearing of turbans according to data
25 compiled by the Sikh Coalition. Sikhs are among the

1 nation's targeted religious groups, and I thank the
2 Sikh Coalition for their help in putting together
3 resolution. It is my hope that promoting greater
4 awareness and understanding of Sikhs. Their peaceful
5 religious practices and traditions will help to
6 reduce the number of bias-based incidents in
7 bullying. There are more than 80,000 Sikhs in New
8 York City, most of which reside in Queens. Let's
9 talk about the holiday of Baisakhi. Baisakhi is the
10 Sikh New Year festival usually celebrated April 13th
11 or 14th. It started as a Harvest Festival in the
12 Punjabi region of Northern India and marks the start
13 of the Punjabi New Year. Baisakhi is also a day to
14 celebrate 1699, the year when Sikhism was born as a
15 collective faith. It is one of the most important
16 dates in the Sikh calendar. So, what does this
17 resolution actually do? It does two things. The DOE
18 is shifting to a new educational strategy called
19 Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education, which is
20 a cultural view of learning whereby diversity of
21 nationality and religion are recognized, understood,
22 and regarded as indispensable source of knowledge.
23 We want this-- we want the holiday to be part of
24 that. Also,-- I'm just finishing here. The DOE is
25

1
2 also investing more than 200 million dollars to
3 develop a rigorous inclusive curriculum by Fall 2023
4 called Universal Mosaic Curriculum, and we want
5 Baisakhi and the Sikh culture to be part of that
6 mosaic. Thank you for giving me a little latitude.
7 Thank you, Mr. Leader.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
9 go to Council Member Kagan.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Thank you. I would
11 like to say some important statements about what
12 happened in my district in Coney Island. It's also
13 relevant to the entire City of New York. On Monday
14 in the middle of the day at 3:30 p.m., seven years
15 old girl was walking on the street [inaudible] she
16 was happy [sic], sunny day. All of a sudden, black
17 car stopped near her and the guy who was inside the
18 car started to shoot. He didn't kill her. Thank God
19 she's alive. She's recovering. She left hospital.
20 But the matter of fact that a seven years old girl
21 cannot easily and calmly walking down the street in
22 the middle of the day is very, very scary, troubling,
23 and I believe the public safety should be priority
24 for all of us, for the entire City. It's everything.
25 It's police. It's families. It's schools. It's

1 community leaders, clergy, all hands on the deck. I
2 believe we cannot live in the City when a young girl
3 cannot walk simply on the street in the middle of the
4 day without being scared to be shot next second.

5 Thank you.

6
7 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're
8 now going to go to Council Member Lee followed by
9 Council Member Menin.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Thank you so much,
11 Majority Leader. It is my pleasure to stand today
12 with my colleague and friend, Council Member Gennaro,
13 as we introduce Resolution 83 calling on the Mayor's
14 Office and New York City Education Department--
15 Department of Education to recognize and observe the
16 important holiday of Baisakhi. Not only does Baisakhi
17 mark the start of the Sikh and Hindu Solar New Year
18 and its important Spring Harvest Festival for many
19 South Asians, but it also marks historic events in
20 the Sikh community that are filled with political and
21 spiritual significance. During Baisakhi, Sikhs
22 remember that commitment to embodying the best in
23 thought and action and to practice compassion and
24 selflessness towards their fellow men and women. The
25 Sikh and Hindu communities have been an integral part

1 of New York City for decades. They're represented in
2 our business community, in our police and municipal
3 workforces, and of course, in the transportation
4 sector. Without their contributions, New York would
5 not be the city it is today. I'm honored to stand
6 with Council Member Gennaro, Council Member Joseph to
7 call for Baisakhi to be recognized as a full-fledged
8 holiday so that all New Yorkers can celebrate
9 Baisakhi alongside our Sikh and Hindu neighbors. I
10 certainly look forward to celebrating with them. And
11 I'm also very excited to be a part of Resolution 84
12 as Council Member Hanif just mentioned, along with my
13 colleagues Council Members Abreu, Moya, and Schulman.
14 And it wasn't too long ago that our borough was the
15 epicenter of the pandemic and disproportionately
16 impacted-- that disproportionately impacted our
17 immigrant communities. This bill will allow us-- by
18 passing the Coverage for All Act, we have the
19 opportunity to dramatically improve the lives of our
20 underserved working class immigrant families. All
21 New Yorkers will benefit from this because it will
22 alleviate the financial burden of our hospitals who
23 have been there throughout the pandemic by allowing
24 people to have more regular visits to their
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1 healthcare providers for preventative care, to keep
2 New Yorkers healthier and out of the emergency room.
3 As the world's most diverse borough, we shouldn't
4 discriminate against people based on their ability to
5 pay, and passing this bill will be an important step
6 forward in changing the way healthcare is provided
7 for all New Yorkers. I'm proud to stand with my
8 colleagues. Thank you.

9
10 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thanks so much.
11 We'll now go to Council Member Menin followed by
12 Council Member Abreu.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Thank you. Over
14 a-third of New York City's over 200,000 small
15 businesses are at risk of closing because of the
16 pandemic, which is completely unacceptable. We have
17 to make it easier to open a new small business in the
18 city and to operate a small business. My bill that
19 I'm introducing today, Intro. 116, is a one-stop-shop
20 NYC Business Portal. It would essentially create a
21 one-stop portal for all city agency permits.
22 Currently, small businesses need to go from agency to
23 agency to agency to deal with getting a permit.
24 Often times, they have to take off work. They're
25 dealing with every single agency separately. It

1 makes absolutely no sense. This would consolidate
2 everything into one website, one app, one process of
3 permitting, and I think it will really make it much
4 easier for small businesses to operate and for new
5 small businesses to open. So I really urge and hope
6 my colleagues will sign on to this bill. Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
9 go to Council Member Abreu followed by Council Member
10 Feliz.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Good afternoon.
12 Today, I am proud to stand with Council Member Hanif,
13 Lee, Moya, and Schulman to call on the state to pass
14 the Coverage for All Act. Our city is built on an
15 aspirational promise, everyone, but especially
16 immigrants can find a place for themselves and their
17 family here. It's part of our history, and it's part
18 of my family's history. They came from Dominican
19 Republic and set up the foundations for my own
20 success in this city. Yet, tragically, too many of
21 our neighbors and our loved ones, people who have
22 lived here most of their lives, who pay taxes and who
23 have built New York as we know it, have been denied
24 access to affordable healthcare. If COVID has taught
25 us anything, it is that our community cannot stay

1 healthy unless we all stay healthy. Government
2 inaction has left hundreds of thousands of immigrants
3 New Yorkers uninsured, but we have the ability to
4 change that. As Chair of the Council's Committee on
5 State and Federal Legislation, I am proud to call for
6 the passage of the Coverage for All Act and bring
7 vital coverage to the state. Today, I am also proud
8 to stand with my colleague and dear friend, Oswald
9 Feliz, and introduce legislation that will ensure
10 that fire safety violations are promptly cured. We
11 know how to keep people safe, we just have to do it.
12 I urge my colleagues to join us in support. Thank
13 you.

14
15 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
16 go to Council Member Feliz, and we'll do Council
17 Member Williams part two.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Thank you. Today,
19 I have the honor and privilege of introducing
20 legislation to help resolve the fire safety
21 challenges that our city faces. Two months ago we
22 saw a devastating fire in the Bronx, a horrible
23 tragedy wherein 17 innocent lives were lost and so
24 many families displaced. The tragedy was avoidable.
25 The fire was started due to malfunctioning space

1 heaters, and the fire occurred in a fireproof
2 building, but the smoke was allowed to inundate the
3 entire 19-story high-rise because the self-closing
4 doors were not functioning. The self-closing doors
5 were not closing. The tragedy highlights the need,
6 not only for stronger laws on the issue of fire
7 safety, but also stronger enforcement of our laws, on
8 fire safety laws. So today, we're taking action.
9 I'm introducing legislation to strengthen our fire
10 safety laws to help ensure that another tragedy like
11 the tragedy that we saw that Sunday morning in the
12 Bronx in January. Never happens again, not in the
13 Bronx, not anywhere in the City of New York. I look
14 forward to working with all of my colleagues on these
15 important issues, and I also want to thank Speaker
16 Adams. Thank you for creating the Twin Parks Fire
17 Safety Taskforce, a taskforce dedicated to resolving
18 the many, many, many challenges that we face on the
19 [inaudible] fire safety. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're
22 going to go to Council Member Williams followed by
23 Council Member Hudson.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Alright. I'm
25 rerunning it back. Thank you Speaker Adams for your

1 leadership and leader Keith Powers. Today I'm proud
2 to be a member of this diverse body and I'm excited
3 to be introducing my first set of bills. As we heard
4 from the Speaker and Council Member Feliz, the Twin
5 Parks fire was devastating, and I'm excited to
6 introduce a bill that would be designed to help
7 residents deal with safety inspection. The bill
8 would require the New York City Fire Department to
9 conduct inspections of the sprinkler system and Stan
10 [sic] pipe system fire department connections. There
11 are many benefits to inspections of sprinkler systems
12 and emergency evacuation plans in buildings. Regular
13 inspection is essential as it helps property owners
14 to identify any potential problems. Before I discuss
15 my second bill, I wanted to start by also
16 congratulating Council Member Won, and of course,
17 Council Member Gutiérrez who's here with us today,
18 and so-- on their recent deliveries. The number of
19 pregnant women experiencing a difficult or
20 complicated pregnancy has increased. In 2018, rates
21 of complications were more than three-and-a-half
22 times higher in the region with the highest rate in
23 New York City, 324 per 10,000 deliveries. By request
24 of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, this
25

1
2 bill will create a new parking permit for expectant
3 mothers experiencing a difficult or a complicated
4 pregnancy.

5 [applause]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: It would
7 require the New York City Department of
8 Transportation to issue a parking permit for vehicles
9 owned or operated by any individual who has been
10 certified by a physician as experiencing difficult or
11 a complicated pregnancy. These permits will make it
12 easier for pregnant women to find safe and
13 comfortable parking spaces which can help them get
14 through their pregnancies with ease. My third bill
15 would amend the Council's Paid Transparency law,
16 especially with regard to small businesses. This law
17 will clarify that the laws applied employees who are
18 paid hourly or through a salary. Lastly, my
19 resolution in regards to using creative expression as
20 evidence in criminal trials, #trapmusic, #drillmusic.
21 Prosecutors have been using creative expression as
22 evidence to prove their criminal defendants are
23 guilty of their crimes. This has led to a number of
24 unfair convictions and raised concerns about the
25 fairness of our judicial system. I look forward to

1
2 working with the Speaker and my colleagues to pass
3 these very important measures. Thank you so much.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
5 now go to Council Member Hudson followed by Council
6 Member Barron.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Thank you,
8 Majority Leader. Today, I'm introducing my first
9 bill as a member of the New York City Council. This
10 bill will raise the minimum required indoor
11 temperatures from 68 degrees to 70 degrees during the
12 day, and 62 degrees to 66 degrees overnight. It
13 builds on the excellent work of my colleague Council
14 Member Brewer and now Public Advocate Jumaane
15 Williams who raised the minimum temperatures a few
16 years back. We've since learned that the minim
17 temperatures are still too low, prompting many New
18 Yorkers to use potentially dangerous heat sources
19 like stoves or faulty space heaters to keep warm.
20 This bill keep those folks comfortable in their homes
21 and reduce the risk of deadly fires like the one we
22 saw in January at Twin Parks. This bill is just a
23 first step. We must also work with HPD to ensure
24 robust enforcement of this law and hold predatory
25 landlords accountable who intentionally turn off heat

1
2 for tenants to save a few bucks. There must be a
3 stronger mechanism for reporting heat outages and for
4 HPD to address them rapidly. Thank you also to
5 Council Member Powers, Majority Leader Powers, on
6 that bill. Also wanted to mention commercial rent
7 stabilization and commend and thank Council Members
8 Ayala, Rivera, and Cabán. The pandemic showed the
9 financially precarious situation of many of our
10 city's small businesses. Many are a few weeks away
11 from being forced to close, and one of the main
12 drivers of costs for small businesses is rent. This
13 bill will help create a commercial rent registration
14 and regulation system that ensures landlords can't
15 evict commercial tenants by pricing them out. As
16 such, landlords won't be able to price out a local
17 bar so it can bring in a bank or a chain realtor--
18 retail store, excuse me, that can afford the higher
19 rent. It will also reduce blights as many small
20 businesses cannot afford the rents in various
21 locations, leaving those spots vacant for years.
22 Now, more than ever, we must take every step possible
23 to protect the businesses we rely on and the workers
24 who make a living in our communities. Thank you.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're
3 going to go to Council Member Barron and then Council
4 Member Won.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you very
6 much. I just wanted to say to my colleagues on this
7 situation on crime and shootings in our communities,
8 please, don't believe that policing is going to solve
9 this. They brought back the Street Crime Unit, and
10 this was Rudolph Giuliani's racist Street Crime Unit,
11 plain clothes team, the ones that shot Amadu Dialo
12 [sp?] 41 times, Sean Bell 50 times. They rolled it
13 out a couple of weeks or a Monday ago. That weekend
14 right after that, over 29 people were shot with the
15 Police Crime Unit in our communities. Prior to that
16 weekend, 13 were shot. We cannot police our way out
17 of this. Now, the Mayor's upset about that. So now
18 he wants to bring back the Broken Windows theory
19 where you arrest every black and brown youth for
20 minor crimes so they don't commit major crimes. That
21 didn't work. When Giuliani brought the Police Crime
22 Unit in, it didn't work. The crime went down in many
23 of our communities in certain categories. I looked at
24 the police stats according to them. In the area where
25 we had Man Up Inc., which is a Cure Violence team,

1 run by Andre Mitchkel [sp?] in our community, crime
2 went down in that area. In the rest, it was high.
3 So why not invest in youth entrepreneurship money?
4 Fund that for young people to start business.
5 100,000 jobs for the summer, I know y'all think
6 that's great, but most youth don't even apply for
7 that anymore because they never go the jobs, and when
8 they do apply, 150,000 to 200 apply. So many of them
9 won't get it, and not [inaudible] for the summer. We
10 cannot police our way out of this. We cannot do
11 things that have not worked in the past. What we've
12 never done is a multi-billion-dollar anti-crime
13 program, anti-poverty program. Let's get youth
14 entrepreneurship. Let's create some jobs. Let's open
15 up some youth centers instead of police precincts.
16 We will bring this crime down when we--

17
18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [inaudible]
20 causes crime, and that is poverty causes crime, not a
21 lack of policing. Let's do the right thing in this
22 budget. We have to address poverty and unemployment
23 if we want to bring crime down on the real side.
24
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're
3 now going to go to Council Member Won followed by
4 Council Member Sanchez.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Thank you so much,
6 Speaker Adams and Majority Leader Powers and to all
7 of my colleagues for welcoming our baby boy into this
8 world so warmly and for all of your support. it's
9 been about two weeks since I've given birth, and like
10 many things in life, the greatest gifts are
11 unexpected, and I am about to introduce my first two
12 bills in the City Council all at the same time. So,
13 as a first-generation Korean-American immigrant,
14 making English my second language--

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [inaudible] get
16 it all out in one breath.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Council Member
18 Barron, please mute yourself.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: As a first
20 generation Korean-American immigrant making English
21 my second language, I'm honored to advocate on behalf
22 of all immigrants by introducing my first two bills
23 on the Council, Intro 136 and 137 to make language
24 access a pillar of our city. Intro 136 would require
25 the City to translate and disseminate any information

1 from emergency declarations from the state and
2 federal government and provide emergency
3 notifications where applicable in designated city
4 languages. Intro 137 would see public-facing city
5 agencies create comprehensive procurement lists of
6 community-integrated translation services to provide
7 effective services and languages outside of English.
8 In our city, over 200 languages and dialects are
9 spoken, and 1.8 million New Yorkers have limited
10 proficiency in English. This reality must be
11 reflected in how our city government operates and
12 services the people of our city, and emergencies
13 require quick, clear, and effective communication and
14 it must be done in the languages of our city. And if
15 we don't, we're purposely excluding almost 25 percent
16 of New Yorkers who are limited in their English
17 proficiency. Can you imagine, just to humanize this
18 even more, if you are getting a blaring alert on your
19 phone and you're seeing that there's a warning of
20 impending danger, like Hurricane Ida that we saw. In
21 my district in Woodside, Sunnyside, Astoria, and Long
22 Island City this was the reality of so many people,
23 and we lost 13 New Yorkers from the flooding, most
24 who were not English proficient, and they could not
25

1 comprehend what was happening in real time. And even
2 for those who survived, when Red Cross came and they
3 told to fill out sheets, those sheets were only in
4 English, and with the trauma that they were already
5 facing, that was a lot for them to digest. So these
6 bills would set the stage for further expansion of
7 multi-lingual access and empower the organizations--

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: for non-English
11 speaking communities and provide them with resources
12 to fund these necessary translation services. So I
13 call upon my colleagues to sign on to Intro 136 and
14 137 to help create a truly equitable government for
15 the 1.8 million New Yorkers with limited English
16 proficiency. Thank you so much.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you, and a
18 very big congratulations.

19 [applause]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: We're going to
21 now go to Council Member Sanchez followed by Council
22 Member Rivera.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Good afternoon.
24 Thank you Majority Leader. So, I'm just wanting to
25 speak in support of some legislation that I am

1
2 cosponsoring today that is being introduced by
3 Council Member Feliz, Council Member Hudson, Council
4 Member Hanif, and others. The tragic fire at Twin
5 Parks Northwest in two months ago left the Bronx
6 mourning and scarred. For me, going to support
7 Council Member Feliz the morning of that tragic fire
8 was a jarring experiencing in and of itself. The last
9 time that I had been in IS137 was when I was a fifth
10 grader and I was attending that school. Never did I
11 think that I would be back for such tragic
12 circumstances. And for all of those families who
13 lost loved ones as young as two, three years old, I'm
14 proud to stand behind the Council Members in
15 introducing this legislation in co-sponsoring this
16 panel that is going to be responding to these fires,
17 but also many fires that have been occurring across
18 the City of New York. Just this Monday I had another
19 tragic fire on Jerome Avenue, not too far away, that
20 costs us two small businesses and two residences.
21 Luckily no one was hurt, but again, a space heater
22 was the cause. So, legislation to make space heaters
23 safer, legislation to require a higher minimum
24 standard for temperatures inside of our units,
25 legislation to require faster response to self-

1 closing door violations, and other legislation that I
2 am considering as Chair of Housing and Buildings that
3 would also increase fees-- increase inspection fees
4 for repeat inspections for heating complaints, these
5 are all measures that together can start to get the
6 City of New York to be a safer city. And so I want
7 to thank my colleagues for your leadership, and I
8 also want to call on other colleagues to sign on, but
9 also to join me in advocating for HPD and DOB
10 frontline inspectors to receive greater funding.
11 There's a great vacancy in the number of positions,
12 and we need to make sure that there is a housing plan
13 in the City of New York, and that there are
14 sufficient frontline staff to enforce these measures
15 we're calling for today. Thank you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're
18 going to go now to Council Member Rivera and then
19 Council Member Paladino to close us out.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you so
21 much. Today, I proudly join my colleagues Ayala,
22 Cabán, Hudson to introduce-- well, reintroduce
23 commercial rent stabilization because I know this
24 Council can be the one to finally get it done. In
25 the last few years we have seen so many beloved small

1
2 businesses in my district and throughout the City
3 close due in large part to rent from gym spas, to
4 Odessa's [sic], to so many others still open, but
5 eager for these protections like Gatarella [sic] and
6 Dokam [sp?]. We have had a rent problem since long
7 before the pandemic, leaving so many of our small
8 businesses owners scrambling to keep up. This city
9 has had commercial rent regulations in the past, and
10 its past time we do it again. If not now, in support
11 of a just and equitable pandemic recovery, then when?
12 It is time to get this done to ensure long-term
13 stability for the small business community. I'm also
14 introducing legislation calling on the New York State
15 Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign life-
16 saving maternal health legislation carried by our
17 state colleagues. The first is in support of
18 Assembly Member Dick Gottfried and State Senator
19 Gustavo Rivera's Beyond the Fourth Trimester Bill
20 which would expand Medicaid coverage for new members
21 from 60 days after giving birth to a full year. The
22 second supports Assembly Member Amy Paulin and State
23 Senator Julia Salazar requiring doctors to provide
24 those who are expecting with comprehensive
25 information on Caesarian sections and potential risks

1 associated with the procedure. I'm pleased to see the
2 Mayor responding to our advocacy around supporting
3 New York City doulas and midwives, but we must do
4 more and we will. This Council is historic. We're
5 the most diverse with the most women Council Members
6 in history and with the most mothers. We are in a
7 position to pass a policy agenda furthering gender
8 and reproductive justice in New York City, and that
9 agenda must and will address the maternal mortality
10 and morbidity crisis. I urge my colleagues to join me
11 in the fight for birth justice and to sign on to
12 these resolutions. Thank you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're
15 now going to go to Council Member Paladino to close
16 us out.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I think you mean
18 Council Member Ariola.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I was told
20 Paladino, Council Member Ariola, sorry.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: That's okay. It
22 is also a wonderful day for me. It is the first time
23 that I'm cosponsoring on a resolution with my
24 esteemed colleague, Council Member Brannan, and it
25 calls for the Fire Department of New York and to

1
2 companies to reinstate the Fifth Firefighter. As
3 Chair of the Fire and Emergency Management Committee,
4 I have been visiting firehouses and speaking with
5 numerous members of the FDNY, and it has been one
6 common thread to how they can prevent fire-- how they
7 can save lives, and that is to add back the Fifth
8 Firefighter. Currently, engine companies operate
9 with four firefighters which caused the FDNY to
10 require engine companies to respond to each call.
11 This causes delays in operations at fires, leaves
12 geographical gaps at the areas where the second
13 engine would respond, and can ultimately mean the
14 loss of life that could have been prevented. The
15 Fifth Firefighter takes the position of the door
16 firefighter, getting the line in place and then
17 helping to facilitate the line as the nozzle and
18 back-up firefighters face the blaze head-on. The
19 first line put into place at a fire is what saves
20 more lives than anything. Studies have shown that
21 the removal of the Fifth Firefighter adds over four
22 minutes to getting the first line in place and water
23 on the fire. It can take as little as two minutes
24 for a person to pass out or die from smoke
25 inhalation. Those four minutes are crucial to the

1
2 lives of New Yorkers and our firefighters. That is
3 why I'm so proud to be a prime cosponsor on this
4 legislation in addition to being a cosponsor on
5 Intro. 105 which is-- which will bring oversight and
6 accountability and inspections and hold HPD and
7 landlords of multifamily dwellings that come under
8 that umbrella accountable to making sure that people
9 are safe and the doors are closing safely and that
10 everything is operational. Thank you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you.

12 Congratulations.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Thank you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Do we have any
15 other-- do we have any other hands up? Okay, I'm
16 going to call on Speaker Adrienne Adams to close
17 today's State Meeting.

18 SPEAKER ADAMS: Stated Meeting of March
19 24th, 2022 is hereby adjourned.

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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 April 5, 2022