

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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July 20, 2017
Start: 1:52 p.m.
Recess: 3:38 p.m.

B E F O R E: LETITIA JAMES
Public Advocate

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker for the Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Inez D. Barron
Joe Borelli
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Andrew Cohn
Costa G. Constantinides
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Elizabeth S. Crowley
Laurie A. Cumbo
Chaim M. Deutsch
Daniel Dromm
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras-Copeland
Daniel R. Garodnick
Vincent J. Gentile
Vanessa L. Gibson
David G. Greenfield
Barry Grodenchik

Corey D. Johnson
Ben Kallos
Andy L. King
Peter A. Koo
Karen Koslowitz
Rory I. Lancman
Brad S. Lander
Stephen T. Levin
Mark Levine
Alan N. Maisel
Steven Matteo
Darlene Mealy
Carlos Menchaca
Rosie Mendez
I. Daneek Miller
Annabel Palma
Bill Perkins
Antonio Reynoso
Donovan J. Richards
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Deborah L. Rose
Helen K. Rosenthal
Ritchie J. Torres
Rafael Salamanca
Mark Treyger
Eric A. Ulrich
James Vacca
Paul A. Vallone
James G. Van Bramer
Mark S. Weprin
Jumaane D. Williams
Ruben Wills

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

Reverend John King, Assistant to Pastor
(Bishop Darren A. Ferguson)
Mount Carmel Baptist Church
348 Beach 71st. Avenue, Far Rockaway N.Y. 11692

2 [sound check, pause]

3 CLERK: We are beginning momentarily.

4 So, once again, please find your seats. [gavel]

5 [background comments] Can we have quiet in the
6 chambers please?

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
8 Quiet in the Chambers.

9 CLERK: Once again, please find your
10 seats and silence all electronic devices. Thank you.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Everyone please
12 find a seat. Quiet in the Chambers. We're about to
13 begin as members approach and enter into the
14 Chambers. [pause]

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [background
16 comments] Alright, so we're going to start off
17 ceremonials. It seems like it's going to be kind of
18 a long Stated. Let's hope not. So, first and—and I
19 see our former colleague, Council Member Barron is
20 here, Charles Barron is here. [applause] Welcome
21 Charles. So, first for a ceremonial is by the—by
22 council—by the Staten Island Delegation, but headed
23 by our Minority Leader Steve Matteo, and Council
24 Member Borelli and Rose if you can come up here as
25 well, as well as all of the—those that are being

2 honored today. We have Susan Wagner High School
3 Falcons Softball Team is being recognized.
4 [cheers/applause] Wow, yes. We don't have enough
5 women in this Chamber, so you're making up for a lot
6 of that, you now. We keep talking about the lack of
7 women in this Council. This is probably some of our
8 future leaders right here standing before us. So,
9 this young women's softball team as one, the first
10 PSAL Softball City Championship in the school's
11 history. So, let's give them a round of applause.
12 [applause] That is the one sport I played in high
13 school. I was not that good at it, but I did play
14 softball. I played outfield yes. So, I know how.
15 [background comments] Right, that's right. I
16 pitched—I pitched the winning, right? Did we win
17 last year? We won, we won. So, I pitched to it.
18 Okay. So, I'm going to hand it over to Minority
19 Leader Steve Matteo.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Thank you, Madam
21 Speaker and welcome to City Hall to our—our—our great
22 PSAL champs, our Susan Wagner Girls Softball team.
23 Give them another round of applause. cheers/applause]
24 I want to thank the coaching staff Marco and I our
25 Athletic Director Scott McBratney and—and you—you

2 find girls that have just been the epitome of Susan
3 Wagner, and we're all very proud of you. I want to
4 go over some highlights before we read the Proc on
5 behalf of Council Member Borelli and—and I know
6 Debbie Rose was around here. So, on June 9th the
7 Falcons won their first ever softball title with a
8 convincing 11 to 5 win over the high school of
9 Construction (sic) Red Hawks in the PSAL championship
10 game at Saint Johns at Queens. The Falcons ended the
11 season at 20 and 6, and this was the third—the third
12 time for the charm for Coach Marco Altieri, a 13-year
13 coach who guided the school to the championship game
14 twice before in 2012 and 2015. Just in 2015, they
15 lost the championship to Port Richmond, a certain
16 Minority Leader's Alma Mater here. So, but this time
17 they—they got their revenge with a 19 to 5 dropping
18 of Port Richmond in the semi-final game. The standout
19 this season was seeing the picture of Sam Lynagh--
20 See, you knew I was going to get you in—who went 4
21 for 5 with three doubles, two RBIs at the plate and
22 pitched a complete game in the mound allowing two hit
23 and runs and striking out six. She finished a
24 perfect 5 and 0 in the playoffs, but this was a team,
25 a great team effort, and every game in this special

2 season for the Falcons. They trailed early against
3 the Red Hawks, but Lynagh gave the Falcons the lead
4 in the top of the second with a two-run double to
5 right. That was followed by an RBI single by Senior
6 Sam D'Alessio to make the score 4 to 2. The Falcons
7 never looked back. They hit 5 more runs in the third
8 and fourth with Senior Catcher Nicola Roth collecting
9 three RBIs, D'Alessio adding another RBI single.
10 Sophomore outfield Zoe Cadel collecting two hits and
11 senior Erica Olson adding a single. Altogether the
12 team smacked 13 hits on their way to comfortable win.
13 So today we're very proud of all of you. We're very
14 proud of your on-on-the-field accomplishments, your
15 off-the-field accomplishments. To our senior good
16 luck in college. For everyone else we expect you to
17 come back and have another great years. [background
18 comments] So, on behalf of Joe Borelli, the Speaker
19 and the rest of the Council, we're very proud of you.
20 We'll have the Clerk read the proc.

21 CLERK: Council City of New York
22 Proclamation.

23 The Council of the City of New York is
24 proud to honor the Susan Wagner High School Falcon
25 Softball Team for their outstanding performance

2 during the 2017 season for winning the first Public
3 School Athletic League A softball city championship
4 in the school's history; and

5 Whereas, the Falcon Softball Team is
6 comprised of four seniors, four juniors, four
7 sophomores and two freshmen who proved their grit and
8 skill when they defeated the High School of
9 Construction 11 to 5 at Saint John's University
10 Queens Campus on June 8, 2017; and

11 Whereas, the Susan Wagner Falcon Softball
12 Team has been guided to greater heights this season
13 thanks to vision and leadership of Head Coach Marco
14 Altieri and Assistant Coaches Tim McCall, Nicole
15 Brockner and Paul Percoco. Working together they
16 helped these young players develop the skills they
17 needed to put their dreams within reach while also
18 inspiring them to dream even bigger. As a result,
19 they overcame very challenging opponents to win the
20 PSAL A Softball City Championship; and

21 Whereas, the 2017 Susan Wagner High
22 School Falcon Softball Team is comprised of 14
23 excellent players, and they are Zoe Cadle, Christina
24 Carlos, Samantha D'Alessio, Antonia Greco, Samantha
25 Lynagh, Kennedy Mack, Jacqueline Mills, Erica Olson,

2 Nicole O'Rourke, Sky Quanti, (sp?) Nicole Rivera,
3 Stephanie Rybkiewicz, Gina Carbone and Nicole
4 Williams. We commend these players for excelling in
5 both their individual and collective efforts
6 throughout the season.

7 Now, therefore, be it known that the
8 Council of the City of New York honors and
9 congratulates the Susan Wagner High School staff and
10 Softball Team for leading the school to its first
11 victory in the 2017 Public School Athletic League A
12 Softball City Championship. We wish them—we wish
13 them continued success in all their future endeavors.
14 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the Entire
15 Council, Steven Matteo, Minority 50th District Staten
16 Island, Deborah Rose Council Member 49th District
17 Staten Island, Joseph Borelli Council Member 51st
18 District Staten Island.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Thank you, Mike.
20 So, we're going to have Coach Mark Altieri come up
21 and say a few words on behalf of the girls.

22 COACH ALTIERI: Thank you. [coughs] I
23 want to start off by thanking the Speaker and
24 Councilman Steven Matteo not only for the
25 proclamation, but the honor of the invitation to City

2 Hall. I also want to thank everything that Steven
3 Matteo does for Staten Island. Councilman Matteo's
4 commitment to Susan Wagner High School doesn't go
5 unnoticed. Recently he found the funds for us to
6 redo our softball fields to update it. A few months
7 later we won a softball city championship.
8 [background comments] I may call you again. I like
9 to remind my players and coaches that we're taking
10 part in a journey full of experiences, and to
11 appreciate all that we've done together. Today is
12 truly a highlight for our school, the players, their
13 families and the coaches. Besides girls having access
14 to quality programs at Susan Wagner High School, it
15 is important for them to see the positive figures in
16 their community support what they do, and that is
17 what our community has done for us. Council Matteo,
18 on behalf of Susan Wagner High School and Softball
19 Program, I would like to thank you once again for
20 today and all that you do for Staten Island.

21 [applause]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Thank you folks.
23 Thanks a lot. Thanks to the Speaker and--and
24 congratulations to the girls up--

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2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] No, I'm
3 not going to let her get away with that easily.
4 She's not going to get away. [on mic] We are not
5 going to have that. I know you don't want to speak
6 as the Captain, but we have to have one of the young
7 women say something, right. [background comments]
8 We're going to encourage. This is a leadership
9 development moment. We are women and we should not
10 be afraid to speak. So, let's—alright.

11 [cheers/applause] Just—just give us your name, your
12 age and what it means to you to have been part of
13 this team. [off mic] And you're speaking for all of
14 them. [background comments] [laughter]

15 My name is Kennedy Mack. I am junior at
16 Wagner High School. [cheers/applause] You hold this.
17 [background comments] Winning the city championship
18 was absolutely amazing. The semis—first winning the
19 semis was beyond amazing beating Port Richmond and
20 then going to the championship, which was
21 unbelievable and finally winning the championship to
22 Wagner was phenomenal.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Are you going to
24 win this year?

25 KENNEDY MACK: Yeah, that would great.

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2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] You
3 might be on the team next year. [background
4 comments] Alright. [cheers/applause] So proud right.
5 [on mic] Congratulations to all of you. Alright,
6 good luck and continue your-your studies. Hopefully
7 see you all here next year. [background comments,
8 pause] All right, congrats. [cheers/applause]
9 Alright, the next ceremonial. [background comments]
10 Alright the next ceremonial is Council Member Ydanis
11 Rodriguez who is celebrating and honoring---

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
13 [shushing for quiet]

14 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
16 Chambers.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --the Dominican
18 Film Festival in New York for six years of stellar
19 service to the community. Anyone that is here for
20 the ceremonial those of you that are getting honored,
21 please come on up, and I'll hand the mic over to
22 Ydanis.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.
24 Thank you Speaker and Julissa. No pressure but join
25 us, Antonio, too. So the Dominican Council Member

2 and—and together with the rest of our colleagues here
3 at the Council we want to recognize Armando Guareno
4 and the rest of the team here. Mike Christian who
5 was also from the United Palace as also Mino Laura
6 who also run the—the People's Theater Project, and
7 all his staff. Many of them volunteer for putting
8 together the Sixth Dominican Film Festival. While it
9 started very small, I remember when I organized the
10 Dominican 2000 in February 2000, Armando was in the
11 film school at City College. I asked Armando to put
12 together a small component of the Dominican 2000
13 Conference and he would use 0201 at City College to
14 start the Dominican Film Festival. Now, after being
15 elected and being also working with Armando, this
16 time around he has movies from all over the city.
17 They are back in the aisle many Dominicans film
18 directors here. This is the sixth one, and this one
19 only—not only would take place at the United Palace
20 but also 42nd Street. So, thank you Armando, and we
21 wanted the Speaker and I and the rest of—of our
22 colleagues we wanted to recognize the contribution
23 and literacy for being able to put together the Sixth
24 Dominican Film Festival, and with that, I call the
25 Clerk to read the Proclamation.

2 CLERK: Council City of New York

3 Proclamation.

4 The Council of the City of New York is
5 proud to honor the Dominican Film Festival in New
6 York for six years of stellar service to the
7 community; and

8 Whereas, since the Dominican Film
9 Festival in New York made its debut in 2012, it has
10 provided an important annual platform for promoting
11 both a new generation of Dominican filmmakers as well
12 as honoring established ones. It continues to
13 strengthen the vital economic and cultural
14 relationship of the Dominican Republic within the
15 United States; and

16 Whereas, the Dominican Film Festival in
17 New York celebrates, enriches and reaffirms the
18 Dominican cultural identity across the five boroughs
19 and raises awareness of the meaningful and enduring
20 contributions the Dominican Diaspora have made to
21 made to New York, to the United States and to the
22 whole world; and

23 Whereas, the Dominican Film Festival in
24 New York exposes new audiences to Dominican-Dominican
25 cinema, culture, history, politics and social life of

2 the country through an aesthetic and engaging
3 approach. This annual event also provides all film
4 lovers an important opportunity to connect with and
5 increase their understanding of our city's diverse
6 population. This year's festival programming also
7 features the talent of 21 other Latin American
8 countries; and

9 Whereas, in just a few years the
10 Dominican Film Festival in New York has grown
11 steadily in both size and prominence. It featured 20
12 films when it began in 2012. This year it will
13 screen more than 70 films at seven venues including
14 the New York City Landmark United Palace Theater in
15 Washington Heights. Several shows in Time Square and
16 at numerous other proud institutions in Northern
17 Manhattan. The 2017, Dominican Film Festival in New
18 York will also pay special tribute to Dominican-
19 American Actress Dasha Palanko; and

20 Whereas, we commend Armando Guareno, the
21 Executive and Founder of Dominican Film Festival and
22 his team for their tireless efforts to make the
23 Dominican Film Festival in New York what it is today.
24 Their work has created an international spotlight for
25

2 Dominican cinema that has made it a source of
3 inspiration and enjoyment for all.

4 Now, therefore, be it known that the
5 Council of the City of New York proudly honors the
6 organizers of the Dominican Film Festival in New York
7 for their outstanding service and achievements and
8 wishes them continued success in the years ahead.

9 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the Entire
10 Council, Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member Tenth
11 District Manhattan, Fernando Cabrera, Council Member,
12 Fourteenth District the Bronx, Julissa Ferreras-
13 Copeland, Council Member Twenty-First District,
14 Queens, Antonio Reynoso, Council Member Thirty-Fourth
15 District, Brooklyn and Queens, Rafael Espinal,
16 Council Member Thirty-Seventh District Brooklyn.
17 [cheers/applause]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Fernando
20 Felicidal Hati (sp?) and all those that put this
21 together any type of event of this size and—and being
22 expensive beyond one venue is very complicated
23 getting the support financial and the interest of the
24 community. There's a lot at stake, but we know the
25 value that these festivals are highlighting the

2 diversity of our culture, the different points of
3 view, the challenges and the struggles of the issues
4 that we're tackling. So, it's a way of exposing a
5 broader audience beyond the Dominican community. So,
6 the realities that the Dominican community faces here
7 and on the island. So, thank you very much for that
8 and would love to hear a few words from you.

9 ARMANDO GUARENO: Thank you very much.
10 First of all, I want to thank the City Council, and I
11 want to thank my dear friend Ydanis Rodriguez because
12 he's one of the main supports of the Dominican Film
13 Festival. Besides that we are very good friends and
14 brothers. We have known each other for 25 years, and
15 the Dominican Film Festival started with a passion.
16 They mean to represent the Dominican Republic in-in
17 another platform. Like my slogan this year says: We
18 are more than [Speaking Spanish]. We are also
19 cinema, and from there I created this year's program
20 thinking not only about Dominican film as an
21 industry. In our Dominican a theme is a theme. This
22 year I choose to program universal films, very unique
23 films. For example I had film called the-the Haitian
24 Experience in the Dominican Republic, which is a
25 showcase of film that really explain the situation

2 that is happening right there in the country of all
3 these wealthy for the Diaspora, which is not
4 different from the problem that we face here. I'm
5 with this everyday. The Dominican Film Festival is a
6 collaboration of—of many things. I always say it's
7 not my film festival. I say it is my staff room
8 festival. It is in my mind because I had a great
9 staff that worked with me the whole year, and without
10 them it would be impossible to put such a huge event,
11 and every year we grow more, and every year I promise
12 that it's going to be better and better. Thanks a
13 lot. [applause]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: And, of
15 course, Armando not only bring together the Dominican
16 Film Festival, he's also been doing it for many
17 years, the Children's Film Festival, and this
18 festival would not take place without the art
19 director of the United Palace who is here with us
20 also. The opening night is going to be at the
21 beautiful landmark building that we recently approved
22 at the Council and I would like for Mike, the
23 Director of the United Palace Art Center to also say
24 a few words. [background comments]

2 MIKE FITELSON: The opening night again.
3 We're reopening again. My name is Mike Fitelson the
4 Executive Director of the United Palace of Cultural
5 Arts. It's the non-profit Arts and Cultural Center at
6 the United Palace, the historic landmark and ever so
7 beautiful United Palace. We're always proud to have
8 the Dominican Film Festival at the Palace. We think
9 it's the—the most appropriate space to have such a
10 seminal event as the opening night, and the family
11 night of movies because it's the heart of Washington
12 Heights, and I think for—for film lovers and for
13 folks who are just looking for a night out on the
14 town, it's the perfect place to show up and be
15 transported into a completely different space, a
16 completely different time and through the magic of
17 cinema and the film festival we welcome everybody
18 there next week, and thanks to Armando and Ydanis and
19 the City Council for their ongoing support.

20 [applause]

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you so
22 much. Gracias. So, last but not least, I'm going to
23 ask Council Member Gentile and the Brooklyn
24 Delegation to come on up. [applause] When I saw the
25 description about this proclamation I remember

2 reading about this story and these are really
3 incredible stories of New Yorkers that we are really
4 proud to be able to highlight here in the Council.
5 We are the people's house. We are representatives
6 for this wonderful, beautiful diverse city, and so
7 today the Brooklyn Delegation and Council Member
8 Gentile who is spearheading this are honoring
9 Brooklynite Mark Ryan Kindschuh. Is that right?
10 Kindschuh for his heroism in London following a
11 terrorist attack on June 3rd. You know those of us
12 that when we hear his story, and the Council Member
13 will talk about it and we'll hear it in the
14 proclamation, you really wonder if you were put in
15 the same situation if you would do the same thing.
16 There's always the hope in our hearts that we would,
17 but we never know until we're faced with a situation
18 like the one that he was faced and the measures that
19 he took. So, definitely proud that you're here with
20 us. Glad that we were able to honor you. Thank you
21 to Council Member Gentile, and I'll hand the mic to
22 him so we can hear a little bit more about this story
23 and the incredible heroism of this New Yorker. Thank
24 you for being here today.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you, Madam
3 Speaker. Thank you very much, and thank you to my
4 colleagues who are up here joining us, and it's true,
5 it's really in emergencies that a person's character
6 really comes out, and that was the case with—with a
7 youngster Mark Kindschuh from my district who was
8 raised in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, went to local schools,
9 then to Regis High School. He's now a student a
10 Boston College, and he was studying abroad this
11 summer in London, England. He's majoring in history
12 and political science. He's a member of the ROTC and
13 he's also interning this year, this summer in the
14 Office of Senator Chuck Schumer. Now, on Sunday—on
15 Saturday evening, July of June 3rd. I'm sorry,
16 Saturday evening June 3rd while studying abroad, Mark
17 was inside a bar with some of his classmates in the
18 Borough Market in London, England as he was studying
19 abroad when without warning terrorists swarmed in and
20 began to attack innocent bystanders in the café.
21 People scrambled, people ran out, but Mark stayed in
22 the café and he tried to save a life of someone who
23 was injured by the gunshots. He—he stayed throughout
24 the chaos and the uncertainty. When he realized that
25 the victim that was near him was shot in the head and

2 was bleeding, he—Mark ran outside to try to find some
3 medical help for the victim, but he was told to come
4 back in because the bullets were still flying at that
5 that. So, he came back into the café. Seeing that
6 he was bleeding Mark acted on his own. He took the
7 belt off from his—from his pants and he used it as a
8 tourniquet on the head of the—of the injured person,
9 and stayed with that injured person as long as he
10 could until help arrived. So, Mark without—as others
11 were running about, Mark stayed with this injured
12 person. He really showed true character, true
13 bravery and a true New York hero. So, it really is
14 our pleasure to—to honor today Mark Ryan Kindschuh
15 for his hero—heroism and for being a true a New
16 Yorkers. [cheers/applause] And if the Clerk would
17 read the proclamation.

18 CLERK: Council City of New York

19 Proclamation.

20 The Council of the City of New York is
21 proud to honor Mark Ryan Kindschuh for his
22 extraordinary act of courage and his outstanding
23 service to the community;

24 Whereas, a person's true character is
25 often revealed in emergencies, but it is shaped in

2 one's daily life. Mr. Mark Kindschuh was raised in
3 Bay Ridge, Brooklyn where he attended local Schools
4 PS185, Genesis Xaverian (sic) and then onto Regis
5 High School. He entered Boston College in 2015 and
6 was studying abroad this summer in London, England.
7 Mark is majoring in history and political science and
8 will be interning at the Office of Senator Chuck
9 Schumer this summer. Mark through his early years
10 has clearly—has clearly demonstrated strong
11 character; and

12 Whereas on the Saturday evening of June
13 3, 2017 while studying abroad, Mark was inside a bar
14 and market—in Borough Market in London, England with
15 his classmates when terrorists swarmed in and began
16 to attack innocent bystanders. Instead of fleeing,
17 he stayed to save a life without hesitation. Even
18 throughout the chaos and uncertainty of what might
19 happen next, he raced toward a wounded man and tended
20 to his injuries; and

21 Whereas, Mark quickly identified that the
22 victim was shot in the head. With bullets flying
23 outside he ran out to ask for help only to be told to
24 go back to cover. Mark then took matters into his
25 own hands. He wrapped his belt around the man's head

2 to slow the bleeding. Only one other person was
3 trying to save the man's life. So Mark felt a
4 profound obligation to step into action and resolve
5 the situation. Everyone else was huddled back in the
6 back fearful of what might happen next; and

7 Whereas, Mark continued to show his
8 heroic nature by staying with the victim to tend to
9 his wound. His amazing determination reveals
10 outstanding character, bravery and an approach to
11 life for caring for the wellbeing of others before
12 his own; and

13 Whereas, we commend Mark Ryan Kindschuh
14 for springing to action and representing Bay Ridge
15 Brooklyn and New York City. He has truly
16 distinguished himself and his valor, and he is worthy
17 of the esteem of all New Yorkers.

18 Now, therefore, be it known that the
19 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors
20 Mark Ryan Kindschuh for representing New York City
21 with his extraordinary heroism in London on June 3,
22 2017. Melissa-Mark Viverito, Speaker for the Entire
23 Council, Vincent J. Gentile, Council Member, Forty-
24 Third District, Brooklyn.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [off mic] And
3 The entire Brooklyn Delegation.

4 CLERK: As well as all Council Members of
5 the Brooklyn Delegation.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Great.
7 [applause] Congrat-congratulations. Now-now a few
8 words from a-a great Brooklynite and great New Yorker
9 Mark Ryan Kindschuh. [applause]

10 MARK RYAN KINDSCHUH: First off, I would
11 like to thank everyone who is in attendance today,
12 and also I'd like to express how humbled-deeply
13 humbled and honored I am to be receiving this award,
14 and I still maintain that the true individuals who
15 are worthy of praise and commendation on that-as the
16 result of their actions that evening are the EMTs,
17 the medical personnel and the SWAT team who
18 remarkably got the situation under control in just
19 eight minutes. The SWAT and it could have been a lot
20 more gruesome if not for their high level of training
21 and skill in that situation. So, the EMTs and the
22 SWAT team just so much praise for their efforts, and
23 there's really just two things that stick out to me
24 based on my experiences that evening and one of them
25 is just how fortunate I am. I'm lucky just to be

2 alive right now. I was 20 seconds away from being
3 butchered and other people weren't that lucky, and
4 never made it home that night. So, I'm lucky just to
5 wake up everyday, and another that sticks with me is
6 even in the heat of the moment in a terrorist
7 attacks, terrorist attacks, of course, bring out the
8 or a display of the worst side of humanity. People
9 who were willing just murder civilians, just
10 bystanders to advance their own goals and agenda and
11 their ideology. But I also saw that evening and what
12 sticks with me more than the bloodshed the great and
13 inspiring side of humanity where I saw people who—I
14 saw cab drivers act as basically evacuation shuttles
15 driving back into the area where there was a
16 potential bomb threat just to pick people up and
17 drive them out area for free. And these are people
18 with nothing—with everything to lose and nothing to
19 gain who were driving back in just to others. So,
20 the taxi drivers were inspiring to me and also I—I—in
21 one situation I saw two people—two men pick up an
22 elderly woman who was trying to flee the area and was
23 too slow on her moving. She was really struggling
24 with a cane. They picked up and each of them on one

2 side of her carried her out of the area, and that was
3 really inspiring. So, I think when the human--

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
5 [shushing for quiet]

6 MARK RYAN KINDSCHUH: --when just--people
7 are that compassionate and courageous, terrorists can
8 never really win. [cheers/applause]

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Yeah, Mark I dare
10 say I believe these are your parents and your
11 grandmother that are here, and when said that you
12 feel fortunate to be alive, I am sure--I could see the
13 pained look on their faces because I am sure they
14 feel that very deeply. But again, thank you for your
15 actions. I'm very glad that we were able to do this,
16 and at least recognize you, and that you serve as an
17 inspiration of others, right. The way we live in the
18 world around us is hopefully in a way that is
19 thoughtful of us around us--

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
21 [shushing for quiet]

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --that we would do
23 the same thing--

24 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it
25 down, please. Keep it down, please.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --if we were in
3 need of help, right. So, you've shown true
4 leadership and hopefully will always tell others to
5 think about that as well. Thank you, very much.

6 [cheers/applause] [background comments, pause] And
7 that ends ceremonials. [pause] [background comments]

8 CLERK: Ladies and gentlemen, can I have
9 your attention, please? Can I please have your
10 attention? [background comments] Quiet on the floor,
11 quiet on the floor please. [background comments]
12 [gavel] At this time please place all electronic
13 devices, all electronic devices to vibrate. Will all
14 non-Council employees, non-Council employees please
15 leave the main floor of the Chambers. There's
16 additional seating upstairs in the balcony. Thank
17 you. [background comments] [gavel]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have quiet
19 in the Chambers? Everyone please take their seats.
20 Quiet in the Chambers, please.

21 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet
22 please, quiet down please.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Members please
24 take their seats. Guests please find a seat. Please
25 close the doors. We're about to begin. Can members

2 please find their seats, guests please find their
3 seats, staff please assume your positions
4 accordingly.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
6 [shushing for quiet] May we all rise for the Pledge
7 of Allegiance and may gentlemen please remove their
8 hats.

9 CLERK: All rise.

10 [Pledge of Allegiance]

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.

12 Roll call. Quiet in the Chambers.

13 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please, quiet
14 please. [background comments]

15 CLERK: Barron.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

17 [laughter]

18 CLERK: Borelli, Cabrera.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

20 [shushing for quiet]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

22 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet down, quiet
23 down.

24 CLERK: Chin.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

2 CLERK: Cohen.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

4 CLERK: Constantinides.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

6 CLERK: Cornegy.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.

8 CLERK: Crowley. Cumbo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

10 CLERK: Deutsch.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

12 CLERK: Dromm.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

14 CLERK: Espinal.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

16 CLERK: Eugene.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.

18 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Here.

20 CLERK: Garodnick.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

22 CLERK: Gentile.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

24 CLERK: Gibson.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Here.

2 CLERK: Greenfield. Here.

3 CLERK: Grodenchik.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

5 CLERK: Johnson.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

8 [shushing for quiet]

9 CLERK: Kallos. King. Koo.

10 CLERK: Koo.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

12 CLERK: Koslowitz.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

14 CLERK: Lancman.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

16 CLERK: Lander. Levin.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

18 CLERK: Levine.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

20 CLERK: Maisel.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

22 CLERK: Thank you. Mealy.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Here.

24 CLERK: Menchaca.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

2 CLERK: Mendez.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

4 CLERK: Miller. Present.

5 CLERK: Palma. Perkins.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Present

7 CLERK: Reynoso.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Present.

9 CLERK: Richards.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

11 CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

13 CLERK: Kallos.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

15 CLERK: Rosenthal.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

17 CLERK: Greenfield.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

19 CLERK: Salamanca.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

21 CLERK: Torres.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Present.

23 CLERK: Treyger.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

25 CLERK: Ulrich.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

3 CLERK: Vacca.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

5 CLERK: Vallone.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

7 CLERK: Williams. Wills.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Rodriguez.

9 CLERK: Rodriguez.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here. [pause]

11 CLERK: Matteo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

13 CLERK: Van Bramer.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

15 CLERK: Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

17 [background comments]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Quiet

19 in the Chambers.

20 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down please.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise for the

22 invocation.

23 CLERK: All rise.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: The Invocation

25 will be delivered by Reverend John King, the

2 assistant to Pastor—Pastor Bishop Darren A. Ferguson,
3 Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Far Rockaway, New York
4 in the Borough of Queens. Quiet in the Chambers.

5 REVEREND JOHN KING: I'm going to thank
6 you Public Advocate Letitia James. Let us pray. We
7 ask you Lord to open our hearts and minds as we stay
8 on one accord. Let us sit in your lap, Lord, as
9 decisions are made. We ask you to bless everyone
10 that is here, and those that wanted to come but
11 couldn't make it. Let these leaders try to stay
12 together as they take care of yet your city, which is
13 New York City. We pray for all people for everyone
14 under the sound of my voice and those that aren't
15 under the sound of my voice. Father God we ask you
16 to keep your hands of protection around all of our
17 city workers, our NYPD, FDNY, EMS, MTA workers,
18 correction officers, doctors, hospital employees, and
19 as we finish this gathering, let us all make it home
20 safe as it is and everything is in your hands Father
21 God. We all say Amen, amen and amen again.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.
23 Quiet in the Chambers, please. A motion to spread
24 the invocation. Council Member Donovan Richards.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing] [shushing for
3 quiet]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: A motion to
5 spread the invocation over the entire Council. I
6 want to welcome our Reverend Chaplin John King, who
7 is the assistant to one of my pastors, but Pastor
8 Bishop Darren Ferguson at the Mount Carmel Baptist
9 Church in Far Rockaway. Reverend King's ministry
10 takes him to the street.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
12 Excuse me, Council Member.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Yes.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we please
15 have quiet in the Chambers, please. Please out of
16 respect for the Council Member. Quiet.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, Public
18 Advocate.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reverend King's
21 ministry takes him to the street where he has
22 ministered to all. He walks through the projects
23 with the Men's Ministry of Mount Carmel praying and
24 helping the community on a weekly basis. Some of the
25 people that he has ministered to are now working and

2 living a prosperous life. He's also worked at
3 Rocksville, Incorporated for 20 years as a licensed
4 New York State Public Safety Officer. He's also
5 served as a chaplain to the 113th Precinct. Reverend
6 King currently attends Nassau Community College where
7 he is studying to be a funeral director. He also
8 ministers at Jeremiah C. Gaffney's Funeral Home.
9 Reverend King is married to Lelah King and they have
10 two sons and four grandchildren. I want to welcome
11 you to the People's House, Reverend King and God
12 bless you and thank you for all you do.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you,
14 Pastor. Adoption of Minutes. Council Member
15 Menchaca.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Move to adopt
17 the minutes.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So moved.

19 Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

20 CLERK: M—excuse me.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
22 [shushing for quiet]

23 CLERK: M 524 submitting Nasr Sheta
24 for appointment to the Board of Standards and
25 Appeals.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules,
3 Privileges and Elections.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Community from
5 City, County and Borough Office.

6 CLERK: None.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and
8 Communication.

9 CLERK: None.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-
11 Ups.

12 CLERK: M 525 to M 534, various
13 applications.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Couple on Call-Up
15 Vote and I ask for a roll call on all these call-ups.

16 CLERK: Barron.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

18 CLERK: Borelli. Cabrera.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

20 CLERK: Chin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

22 CLERK: Cohen.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

24 CLERK: Constantinides.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

2 CLERK: Cornegy.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

4 CLERK: Crowley. Cumbo.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

6 CLERK: Deutsch.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

8 CLERK: Dromm.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

10 CLERK: Espinal.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

12 CLERK: Eugene.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

14 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland. Garodnick.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

16 CLERK: Gentile.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

19 [shushing for quiet]

20 CLERK: Gibson.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

22 CLERK: Greenfield.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

24 CLERK: Grodenchik.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

2 CLERK: Johnson.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

4 CLERK: Kallos.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

6 CLERK: King. Koo.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

8 CLERK: Koslowitz.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

10 CLERK: Lancman. Lander. Levin.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

12 CLERK: Levine.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

14 CLERK: Maisel.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

16 CLERK: Mealy. Menchaca.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

18 CLERK: Mendez.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

20 CLERK: Miller.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

22 CLERK: Palma. Perkins.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye.

24 CLERK: Reynoso.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 CLERK: Richards.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

4 CLERK: Rodriguez.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

6 CLERK: Rose.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

8 CLERK: Rosenthal.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

10 CLERK: Salamanca.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye.

12 CLERK: Torres.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye.

14 CLERK: Treyger.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

16 CLERK: Ulrich.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

18 CLERK: Vacca.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

20 CLERK: Vallone.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

22 CLERK: Williams. Wills. Matteo. Van

23 Bramer.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

25 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

2 CLERK: Crowley.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: How do you vote
5 Council Member?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 [pause] Today's Land Use Call-Ups are adopted by a
9 vote of 43 in the affirmative, 0 I the negative.

10 Quiet in the Chambers as we now hear from the Speaker
11 Melissa Mark-Viverito.

12 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it
13 down, please.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madam
15 Public Advocate. Thank you to my colleagues when I
16 started this, and I see a lot of young people. I
17 know there's the particular ones we're going to
18 mention here today, but I see a lot of other young
19 people that are shadowing Council Members. I'm
20 assuming they're interns. So, welcome to the
21 Chambers as you learn first hand what this
22 legislative body does, and what we do each and
23 everyday on your behalf, on behalf of the city. So,
24 welcome here to the Chambers. I also want to
25 highlight three interns that we have her: Justin

2 Vargas, Lydell Bland and Malika Christopher, who are
3 here today with Council Members Vanessa Gibson,
4 Ritchie Torres and Barry Grodenchik. These students
5 are spending the summer interning with our frequent
6 partner the Food Bank for New York City and helping
7 to aid in their mission of solving food insecurity
8 across the five boroughs. I have to say, you know,
9 we—we have incredible experiences and moments in this
10 Council things that happen in our districts and
11 across the city, but one of the initiatives I'm very
12 proud of something that was advocated by colleagues
13 and by staff as well. I have to highlight is the
14 initiative to bring school pantries into—food
15 pantries into our public schools, and we were able to
16 do about 16 food pantries in schools last year, and
17 this year based on the incredible success.
18 Unfortunately, based on the real need that exists.
19 We really went and expanded that initiative and we're
20 going to have more food pantries in our public
21 schools, but these young individuals particularly
22 Justin and Lydell who serve in a public school in
23 Council Member Salamanca's district. An intern there
24 helped out and showed me how the food pantry works
25 and the way it impacts people is very moving and very

2 touching. So, thank you for your—for what you do,
3 and thank the Food Bank for New York for being an
4 incredible partner with us and this Council, an
5 incredible partner on behalf of families in need
6 across this city, and we applaud these young people
7 for their interest and involvement in this incredible
8 public outreach initiative. So, thank you to all of
9 you. Yes. [applause] Next I want to just take a
10 moment to acknowledge some unfortunate losses both
11 recent and past. This Sunday is going to mark the
12 fourteenth anniversary of the death of Council Member
13 James Davis, who was assassinated in this Chamber.
14 Council Member Davis contributed much throughout his
15 life to the city, to this Council and to—and—and—and
16 impacted the lives of so many others. We commemorate
17 his loss every year as a reminder of the impact of
18 his legacy on those of whom we serve today—who we
19 serve today. His family is here, his mother, his
20 brother, extended family. Council Member Barron and
21 Council Member Gentile are the two remaining council
22 members. Obviously, Council Member Barron is
23 visiting us today who served in this Council with
24 Davis and who was here, and it really just puts into

2 really contrast the challenges that we had each and
3 every day--

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
5 [shushing for quiet]

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --and how
7 vulnerable we all are, but he gave his life helping
8 others a Council Member and was assassinated in this
9 Chamber. So, we want to definitely commemorate that
10 unfortunate tragic situation today, and also
11 obviously on July 5th, we lost NYPD Officer Miosotis
12 Familia, who had served the department for 12 years
13 and lost her life in a horrifying and unprovoked
14 attack while on patrol in the Bronx. We mourn for
15 the loss of these aspiring New Yorkers and reiterate
16 our commitment to combatting the senseless acts of
17 gun violence that have become an undeniable crisis in
18 this country, and that seem to go unaddressed. So, I
19 would like to ask everyone to join me in a moment of
20 silence, if people could stand, for both Council
21 Member Davis--

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise.

23 CLERK: All rise.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --and for
25 Detective--for Detective Familia. So, we can have a

2 moment of silence. [moment of silence observed].
3 Thank you, my colleagues. So, turning to today's
4 meeting, the Council is going to begin today by
5 voting on the appointment of Thomas Sorrentino to the
6 Taxi and Limousine Commission as recommended by the
7 Brooklyn Delegation. We're also going to vote on
8 multiple land use items including the rezoning of
9 Whitlock and 165th in the Bronx to facilitate the
10 development of two fully affordable community and
11 residential buildings, and the public siting of 4545
12 and 4302 Eighth Avenue in Brooklyn to allow for the
13 construction of two 332-seat public primary schools
14 serving Community School District 15. Council Member
15 Salamanca and Menchaca respectfully represent these
16 districts, and I invite them to speak on these great
17 initiatives, and we can start with Council Member
18 Menchaca followed by Council Member Salamanca.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you
20 Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and I rise today to
21 speak on two Land Use items that I'm really proud of,
22 the overcrowded school crisis in the city is alive
23 and well in my district in Sunset Park District 15,
24 and part of district 20. Today, we'll be voting to
25 approve land use applications that will site these

2 two new schools that are urgently needed. One school
3 would incorporate landmarked exterior sections of our
4 neighborhood's historic-

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
6 [shushing for quiet]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: --but long
8 abandoned-

9 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet,
10 please.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: --68th Police
12 Precinct the building. Sunset Park has decided to
13 have-has decided how to preserve our history, and
14 also help relieve the area's chronic school
15 overcrowded-over crowding emergency. The recovery of
16 the old 68th Precinct building for this 332-seat
17 primary school has been specifically engineered to
18 preserve the landmarked brick exterior. For over 30
19 years the structure has suffered damage and decay in
20 private hands. Now, it will return to permanent
21 public ownership, and service to our young people. I
22 congratulate local schools and preservation
23 advocates, School District 15, community 7 along with
24 the local residents who have collaborated so
25 carefully on this topic at many public hearings.

2 Actions that affected landmark buildings require
3 extreme care. We will continued to work with the
4 School Construction Authority to ensure that we bring
5 the most appropriate design that respects the
6 historic character of this unique building and
7 inspires the next generation of young people. Thank
8 you so much. The last thing I want to say is that
9 over 20% of all of the schools that are being sited
10 and built in the city right now are coming to Sunset
11 Park. That is a victory in and of itself where
12 community and government are working together to
13 address crisis, and I thank everyone tonight and
14 today.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Council Member
16 Salamanca.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you,
18 Madam Speaker. I am pleased today the status report
19 of 1125 Whitlock Avenue, which will bring over 470
20 units to my community in the Bronx. Since first
21 hearing about this project, I have been excited
22 notably because it will replace what's currently is a
23 blight block of rundown garages. So, needless to say
24 new development is welcome here. However, I work
25 diligently with our team here at the Council, HPD and

2 the development team to make sure that this project
3 is one that works for community with our specific
4 needs in mind. As a result, I was able to
5 successfully negotiate with all involved, and today
6 I'm happy to say that this project is one that will
7 be built for the people of the South Bronx. As
8 always, I fought for a wide mix of affordability
9 including nearly 150 units at 40% of AMI or less
10 including large units. With the new HPD term sheets
11 requiring a 10% set aside for the formerly homeless,
12 we ensure that these units were of larger sizes to
13 provide for formerly homeless families particularly
14 with children. I also received a commitment on local
15 hiring and MWBE outreach. As a result we have set
16 aside at least 30% of subcontractors and laborers to
17 force the commitment involvement. We were also able
18 to obtain a commitment on permanent jobs ensuring
19 good paying jobs with benefits once the building is
20 completed, and once the project is completed, we have
21 ensured that there will be adequate safety,
22 surveillance, publicly accessible open space and new
23 community renewal, lighting and sanitation. With
24 approval of this project, I'm proud to say this has
25 taken off 16 months ago. I have approved six ULURPS,

2 and have helped shape or approve over 4,000 units of
3 affordable housing in the South Bronx. Thank you
4 Madam Speaker.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Council Member
6 unbecoming to try to make us all look bad. [laughter]
7 Really, really. [laughs] Congratulations. On the
8 legislative side, the Council will begin by voting on
9 Introduction 1668 sponsored by Council Member Rosie
10 Mendez, which would extend the enactment date of
11 Introduction 1233-A prohibiting the use of wild or
12 exotic animals in circus performances and previously
13 passed at the June 21st Stated Meeting now changing
14 it to October 1, 2018. Council Member Mendez.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you, Madam
16 Speaker. When we passed this legislation last month,
17 I said we would be coming back to extend the time. A
18 business that's been running for multiple years can't
19 change their business plan, and certainly we
20 determined that the time we allowed originally in the
21 legislation was not enough. So, this will give
22 circuses an opportunity to comply with our
23 legislation, and they will have until October of next
24 year to make those transitions. So, I want to thank

2 you, Madam Speaker, and my co-sponsors Council Member
3 Cornegy and Barron.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
5 Council Member and next a very memorable intro based
6 on the number of this bill 1234-A. So the Council is
7 going to vote on Intro 1234-A sponsored by Council
8 Member Raphael Salamanca, which would require the
9 Department of Transportation to provide notice to
10 affected council members and community boards of the
11 installation of new muni meters covering at least
12 four contiguous block face—block faces. For staff, I
13 want to thank Faizah Malik, Jonathan Masserano, Emily
14 Rooney, Terzah Nasser, Aysha Schomburg, Chima
15 Obichere and Kelly Taylor. Council Member Salamanca
16 will say a few words.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you,
18 Madam Speaker. So, as you mentioned, Intro 1234
19 will require the Department of Transportation to
20 provide notice to affected council members and
21 community boards of the installation of new muni
22 meters. This bill will also allow the affected
23 council members and community boards to submit
24 recommendations or comments to DOT about the notice,
25 and would require DOT to review recommendations or

2 comments prior to the installation. Community boards
3 would also be allowed to request the presentation on
4 the installation. As many of you know, I'm a product
5 of the local community board and strongly believe
6 that our community boards are our eyes and ears on
7 what issues are most pressing in our neighborhoods.
8 Since joining the Council, I have depended on the
9 five community boards that cover my district to help
10 me in shaping policy, land use items a variety of
11 other issues facing the south Bronx. Empowering them
12 when it comes to citing things like muni meters, only
13 works to benefit all of us, which is why I have
14 proposed this legislation, and I am proud to have the
15 support of 36 of my colleagues today. Intro 1234 I
16 believe works to do what we were sent to do here in
17 City Hall to improve the quality of life for
18 constituents everyway we can. Thank you, Madam
19 Speaker.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
21 council member. The Council will also vote on Intro
22 1411-A sponsored by Council Member Borelli, which
23 would require that whenever a capital project is
24 occurring on athletic field under Parks Department
25 jurisdiction, the agency implementing the project

2 must install a linked walkway and public sidewalk if
3 neither had existed before. I want to thank Chris
4 Sartori, Patrick Mulvihill, Ken Grace, Chima
5 Obichere, and Ed Atkin for their support on this
6 bill, and ask Council Member Borelli to say a few
7 words.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Thank you very
9 much, Madam Speaker. I want to thank you for your
10 support on this measure as well as Parks Chairman
11 Mark Levine. I want to just point out that the city
12 has come a long way in making our street safer and
13 advocate for safer pedestrian access to different
14 public buildings, and it should never be a condition
15 of where you live, what borough you live in or what
16 type of park you have. All children, all families,
17 all people trying to access ball fields or
18 playgrounds should be able to do so with sidewalks.
19 Not having a sidewalk is something that wouldn't even
20 be considered in most parks around this city, and
21 it's—as I said earlier in—in the pre-*Stated* press,
22 it's one of those head scratchers on why we even need
23 to have legislation on these things, but at last,
24 here we are. I want to also add to that list of
25 thank yous to my own staff Frank Maship (sp?) as well

2 as Amy Slattery, Brad Reed, Christ Sartori, Matt
3 Gewalb, and Ken Grace, and thank you again Madam
4 Speaker.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
6 Council Member. On the Parks Department trend the
7 council the Council will be voting on Intro 407-A
8 sponsored by Council Member Jimmy Vacca, which will
9 require the Department of Parks and Recreation to
10 provide notice of changes to capital projects greater
11 than 10-10% of original contract value, greater than
12 \$500,000 to Council Members from whom the project's
13 funding originated. Again, I want to thank Chris
14 Sartori, Patrick Mulvihill, Ken Grace, Chima
15 Obichere, and Ed Atkin, and ask Council Member Vacca
16 to say a few words.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you, Madam
18 Speaker and many of my colleagues and I we often fund
19 projects in our parks to make communities more
20 enjoyable, but the reality, and I talk to you as
21 someone that has the largest park in the city of New
22 York in his district, Pelham Bay Park, is that when
23 we fund these projects it takes years and years
24 before we see a shovel in the ground, but not only
25 that, there are often massive cost overruns, and

2 sometimes funds are allocated differently than we
3 originally approved. So, the Parks Department
4 already has a structured capital project process, and
5 it generally takes years from when we allocated the
6 money to when we see the shovel, but in addition to
7 that, there's time involved to design the project,
8 get the funding in place, to select the contractor
9 and then finally start construction. Unfortunately,
10 this process often involves contractor's change
11 orders, which can endlessly hold up construction.
12 Delays in projects often create confusion in the
13 community and are not transparent. We need
14 accountability when it comes to the expenditure of
15 this money, and my bill will increase transparency by
16 requiring the Department of Parks to proactively
17 notify council members where there are changes to
18 projects. When we're notified we will be more able
19 to effectively exercise our oversight role, make the
20 capital process run more efficiently and keep our
21 communities informed about ongoing projects. I want
22 to thank that Parks Committee for considering the
23 legislation, and I do want to thank Parks for all the
24 great work they do even though it sometimes takes too
25 much time to get it done. Thank you.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
3 Council Member. Intro 671-A sponsored by Council
4 Member Paul Vallone requires the Department of
5 Transportation to survey all intersections of traffic
6 control signals that are adjacent to a school or park
7 and do not currently have pedestrian countdowns
8 displays for the purpose of determining whether
9 pedestrian countdown displays should be installed at
10 such intersections. This should be of interest to
11 all the young people that are in our public schools.
12 This bill would also require the Department of
13 Transportation to install pedestrian countdown
14 displays at all intersections of that the department
15 determines should have seen such—should have such
16 displays within two years of the completion of the
17 survey. I want to thank Faizah Malik, Jonathan
18 Masserano, Emily Rooney, Terzah Nasser, Aysha
19 Schomburg, Chima Obichere, Gafar Zaaloff and Kelly
20 Taylor for all their work on these bills, and ask
21 Council Member Vallone to say a few words.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you, Madam
23 Chair and thank you to the Chair of the
24 Transportation Committee Ydanis Rodriguez for their
25 leadership in support of this as well as my Chief of

2 Staff Jonathan Schott, and my Legislative and Budget
3 Director Amanda Zar for all their hard work on this
4 piece of legislation. As this bill moves today, I'm
5 proud to stand with our principals, teachers,
6 parents, students, seniors and their combined fight
7 for safety around our schools and parks. This is an
8 issue that will be addressed now before another child
9 or senior is injured just crossing our public streets
10 in our community and through the city. The wellbeing
11 of our children should always been our number one
12 priority and this bill would provide a major boost
13 for the safety of all students and families around
14 our schools and parks. Earlier this year we held a
15 rally in our district for safe streets and safe
16 students where hundreds of our neighbors and friends
17 joined with a clear message of the seriousness and
18 wide support on this issue. When I spoke with the
19 administration and my colleagues to make these safety
20 reforms a reality for our city, without question our
21 seniors and students are our most vulnerable when
22 trying to cross our intersection as pedestrians
23 account for 56% of all traffic fatalities with
24 children and seniors being the most vulnerable
25 population. New Yorkers over 65 years of age make up

2 13% of the population, and account for over one-third
3 of all traffic fatalities. With that, I thank my
4 fellow colleagues for their support of this bill and
5 special happy birthday to my daughter Catina (sic) on
6 her 18th birthday tomorrow. Thank you, Madam.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
8 Council Member. When an individual is arrested,
9 their money, vehicle or other property is seized,
10 vouchered and classified by the NYPD. Introduction
11 1000-B sponsored by Council Member Ritchie Torres
12 would require the NYPD to publish an annual report
13 detailing such property seized and retained in the
14 preceding calendar year and disaggregated by borough
15 and police precinct. It's really interesting that we
16 are passing this bill. I mentioned in the pre-~~Stated~~
17 because in these past couple of day we have heard of
18 some changes that AG Sessions is doing particularly
19 around seizures and making it easier for seizures to
20 happen for people that are just arrested but never
21 convicted of anything. A really interesting time,
22 and I think this is very timely that we'll be able to
23 get information on the numbers of seizures and the
24 reporting on that policy. So, and—and just see how
25 it changes over time. Staff, I want to thank Deepa

2 Ambekar, Beth Golub and Casey Addison. I want to ask
3 Council Member Torres to say a few words.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Thank you, Madam
5 Speaker-Speaker. You took the words right out of my
6 mouth. So, the timing of Intro 1000 is as urgent as
7 ever before. It comes amid a decision by the Trump
8 Administration early in the week to reverse the civil
9 forfeiture reforms of the Obama Administration. A
10 civil forfeiture is a process by which law
11 enforcement can deprive you of your private property
12 regardless of whether you were convicted of much less
13 committed a crime. Both privacy and private property
14 are bedrock principles of America's Constitutional
15 order, and the abuse of civil forfeiture has been a
16 source of concern to both Democrats and Republicans,
17 Liberals, Libertarians and Conservatives alike. The
18 overzealous use of civil forfeiture threatens the
19 Constitutional right of every citizen to be protected
20 from unreasonable searches and seizures without due
21 process of law. Intro 1000 would require the Police
22 Department to create a comprehensive publicly
23 viewable database of all property seizures in New
24 York City. In doing so, it will bring long overdue
25 accountability and transparency to a constitutionally

2 dubious practice that has been shrouded in secrecy
3 for as long as it has been in existence. Intro 1000
4 is a break-through for the cause of civil forfeiture
5 reform, and it is one that would not have been
6 possible without the productive partnership with the
7 New York City Police Department, without the
8 dedicated professionals here in the New York City
9 Council and without the broader criminal justice
10 reform advocacy community. With that said, Madam
11 Speaker, I thank.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. Next
13 we're going to vote on Intro 1646-A sponsored by
14 Transportation Committee Chair Ydanis Rodriguez,
15 which would require for a hire vehicle basis to
16 provide a means to allow passengers to tip their
17 drivers using the same method of payment used to pay
18 for the fare. Our staff I want to thank Faizah
19 Malik, Jonathan Masserano, Emily Rooney, Terzah
20 Nasser, Aysha Schomburg, Chima Obichere and Aminta
21 Kilowan, and I as the Council Member to say a few
22 words. [pause] Oh, we noticed we is not here. He
23 must have stepped out for one second. He will speak
24 when he gets back. Well, he should have told me,
25 tapped me. Unfortunately, he left. Okay, Council

2 Member I am asking you to say a few words about your
3 bill.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you,
5 Speaker and as usually like, you know, no doubt that
6 your leadership is what allow all of us to move good
7 legislation, and I want to thank you for all your
8 support and I also want thank my colleagues for their
9 support of this important legislation. For the first
10 time ever we will require in the city law that there
11 be a tipping option provided for all app-based car
12 services in New York. This is a major step forward
13 for drivers who have seen wage-wage and earning for
14 over the past five years especially for those whose
15 services provided did not allow a tip option in the
16 apps. I also want to highlight the work for the
17 Independent Drivers Guild, and all members that they
18 also play a major role that help us—all of us who are
19 here.(sic) We are making major ways nationally with
20 this move, and already we are seeing the impact with
21 the largest updates it provided in the country, Uber,
22 now adding a tipping option for their drivers.
23 According to the report by the IBG by not including a
24 tipping option drivers for these large companies were
25 left for—to forego \$300 million in earnings that

2 could have been used to support their families. In
3 delays, which has long had—which has long a tipping
4 option has already seen these drivers take home \$250
5 million in tips during its time operating here. I
6 want to thank all the staff who played a major role
7 in this bill and just again, thank you for your
8 leadership and support on passing this bill.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Council
10 Member. Unfortunately, New York City has one of the
11 highest, the nation's highest rates of food insecure
12 seniors. Part of this problem stems from the fact
13 that not enough eligible seniors enroll in or
14 recertify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
15 Program known as SNAP. Introduction 1519-A sponsored
16 by Council Member Karen Koslowitz would seek to
17 increase coordination between the Department of
18 Social Services and the Department for the Aging to
19 promote awareness of SNAP through a public campaign
20 targeted at seniors and their caregivers. The bill
21 also requires the Department of Social Services in
22 coordination with the Department for the Aging to
23 establish and implement a SNAP enrollment and
24 recertification program ensuring that SNAP enrollment
25 as recertification programming is taking place at all

2 senior centers in the city. Our staff I want to
3 thank Terzah Nasser, Aysha Schomburg, Katelyn Fahey,
4 Emily Rooney, Dohini Sompura, and Zanny O'Coupe (sp?)
5 and ask Council Member Koslowitz to say a few words.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank you,
7 Madam Speaker. The average Social Security benefits
8 for a couple that both receive benefits is \$2,212 a
9 month. Unfortunately, for too many seniors this is
10 their sole source of income. To be clear, \$2,212 is
11 the average and many are receiving less than that
12 average. With such low income levels, one
13 anticipates that there would be a reduced food intake
14 as well as reduced quality and a reduced variety of
15 food amongst these seniors. Currently couples with a
16 pre-tax monthly income of \$1,736 receive the
17 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program known as
18 SNAP benefits of \$357. It is readily apparent how
19 critical this benefit is. Yet, we have too many
20 needy seniors who are not availing themselves of this
21 SNAP benefit. Intro 1590-19-A would require the
22 Commission or Social Services in coordination with
23 the Commissioner of DFTA to establish and implement a
24 program to enable enrollment and recertification in
25 SNAP at all senior centers. Such a program would at

2 a minimum enable seniors to enroll in SNAP assistance
3 program in person at each senior center.

4 Additionally, the Department of Social Services shall
5 in coordination with the Department for the Aging
6 design and implement a public campaign to increase
7 the awareness of seniors and their caregivers of the
8 benefits of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
9 Program. I believe this bill is an important step in
10 increasing the nutritional safety net for seniors in
11 our city, and I want to thank the Chair of the Aging
12 Committee Margaret Chin and all staff that worked on
13 this bill. Thank you.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
15 Council Member. Continuing our efforts to bring
16 transparency and accountability to the Department of
17 Correction, Intro 1136-A, which I sponsored would
18 require the Law Department to provide semi-annual
19 public reports on civil actions filed against the
20 Department of Correction and the department's
21 employees including the amount of any financial
22 payment by the city as part of a settlement or other
23 disposition. The Law Department would also be
24 required to share this list with the Comptroller, the
25 Department of Investigation, the Department of

2 Correction, and the Board of Correction. This
3 legislation will allow for comprehensively—for
4 comprehensive and coordinated efforts to identify
5 trends of misconduct in our city jails, and I'm proud
6 to sponsor it. I want to thank the staff Josh
7 Kinsley and Brian Crowe for working on this
8 legislation. Really important indeed, and then
9 finally obviously last but not least, and I know
10 there are many people in this room to celebrate this
11 moment. There was a large celebration earlier today.
12 We will be voting on Intro 20-214-B sponsored by
13 Council Members Levine and Gibson—

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
15 [shushing for quiet]

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --which would
17 require the Office of the Civil Justice Coordinator
18 to establish programs to provide all tenants facing
19 eviction with access to legal services within five
20 years. As I said in my February State of the City
21 Address, the establishment of the Civil Justice
22 Coordinator Office has been an exceptional high point
23 for this Council, and we are proud to see the work of
24 that office expanded. Losing your home is a
25 devastating and life alter-altering experience that

2 should not happen simply because you don't know your
3 rights. This attention to the needs of our most
4 vulnerable residents will keep families together and
5 in their homes, and that importance cannot be
6 overstated as we are concerning lack of affordable
7 housing throughout this city. I want to thank staff
8 obviously Matt Gewolb, Kelly Taylor, Rob Newman, and
9 Casey Addison on all of these bills. Obviously, you
10 know, the staff is incredibly important. A lot of
11 these bills are complicated, complex, a lot of
12 conversations. This is an incredibly historic moment
13 for this Council and really important. Again, the
14 leadership of Council Members Levine and Gibson and
15 those are to be commended. Really impressed by the
16 work of these two members and colleagues, and invite
17 them to speak on this incredible and forward thinking
18 legislation. With that Council Member Levine,
19 followed by Council Member Gibson.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you so
21 much, Madam Speaker and thank you for making civil
22 justice one of the hallmarks of this Council over the
23 last 3-1/2 years and for fighting so hard to make
24 sure that the bill we're voting on today is truly
25 outstanding, and thank you to my partner in this

2 adventure the indomitable Vanessa Gibson for your
3 friendship and your leadership. Colleagues, every
4 year there are no fewer than 150,000 eviction cases
5 in Housing Court. In some of our districts, just in
6 single districts there are more 10,000 evictions—

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
8 [shushing for quiet]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: --cases and we
10 all experience this in our district offices when day
11 after day people come in having been evicted,
12 sometimes heading to a homeless shelter, and we have
13 all experienced that pain in the stomach when we
14 realize we're talking to someone who has been
15 evicted, who may have been able to stay in their home
16 if only they had an attorney. It's—it's—it is a
17 devastating cost that the lack of access to
18 representation in Housing Court has laid on the city
19 for decades for too long, and today we're putting it
20 into it. Today, we are beginning a new era for
21 tenants in New York City. Never again will anyone
22 lose their home. Never again will anyone land in a
23 homeless shelter only because they didn't have the
24 money for an attorney. We are the first place in
25 America to take this step. Cities around the country

2 are already turning to us to follow our lead because
3 they've been reminded of the power of local
4 government. They are following the lead of this
5 body, of the New York City Council, and this
6 happened, this bill is being voted on today because
7 of the efforts of so many of you. Forty-two of you
8 who serve as co-sponsors of the bill, dozens of you
9 who took part in one of our countless demonstrations
10 and press conferences. So many of you who pushed
11 behind the scenes during the difficult months in the
12 negotiations. I want to give a special thank you to
13 Council Member Rosie Mendez, who for 12 years has led
14 the fight on this access to counsel priority and very
15 much laid the groundwork for this bill today. Thank
16 you, Rosie. Thank you—thank you Rory. Did Rory
17 leave? There he is. Thank you Rory as chair of the
18 Committee on Courts and Legal Services for pushing
19 this through and for all your support. Thank you to
20 Jumaane, our chair of Housing who's steadfast
21 supporter of this bill. Thank you to Ritchie for
22 making sure that the interest of NYCHA residents were
23 always front center, and for helping us to secure
24 that not only NYCHA residents in Housing Court are
25 covered in this bill, but so are NYCHA residents when

2 they're in administrative hearings. That is really
3 a—a landmark—a landmark development for us. Thank
4 you Julissa for making sure that we've allocated
5 money year after year in the budget to grow the
6 funding for access to anti-eviction legal services,
7 which proved out the power of this concept, and thank
8 you to my colleagues in the Progressive Caucus who
9 from the first day came out united behind this bill,
10 which gave us so much momentum. Now, none of this
11 work, as important as it is, would have been possible
12 without the efforts of a truly all-inspiring
13 coalition. The Coalition for Right to Counsel in
14 Housing Court, the tenants' advocates, the faith
15 leaders, the labor allies, the intellectual godfather
16 of this movement Andy—Andy Shera (sp?) and some of
17 the most effective community organizers I've ever
18 worked with at CASA led by Suzanna Blankley, Randy
19 Diller, Carmen Rivera and so many others. And
20 finally, I have to thank the staff for their utterly
21 phenomenal work on this bill over the past 3-1/2
22 years. Laura Popa, Rob Newman, Matt Gewolb, Kelly
23 Taylor, Jim Wilcox, my own Legislative Director the
24 amazing and much loved Amy Slattery, my incredible
25 Communications Director Jake Sporan (sp?), and my

2 Chief of Staff Fia Keith who poured her heart and
3 soul and brilliance and determination into leading
4 this effort. Thank you to everyone. Thank you for
5 your votes today. I'm excited that we're making
6 history. Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very
8 much. Thank you, Madam Speaker, Madam Public
9 Advocate. Good afternoon to all of my colleagues. I
10 am just so overwhelmed with joy and pride. I stand
11 before you as a humble servant so honored that today
12 we are passing Intro 214. This three-year journey,
13 colleagues and everyone here has been an incredible
14 journey and today we take a bold step forward in our
15 ongoing efforts to reduce and prevent evictions, to
16 stabilize families, to keep our tenants in their
17 home, and to reduce the burden on our shelter system.
18 After so much advocacy, rallying, marching together,
19 the demonstrations, the countless hours of labor of
20 love. We will see this groundbreaking legislation
21 pass that will curb the homelessness epidemic. I am
22 so proud and honored. This afternoon we will truly
23 make history by voting to protect so many New
24 Yorkers' rights to fairness and equity in Housing
25 Court. And as a representative of all the courts in

2 Bronx County, I can tell you on average in the Bronx,
3 11,000 families are evicted in Bronx County, and we
4 know those are the documented cases. We know that
5 affects children, families, seniors, those that are
6 living well below the Federal Poverty Level. So, we
7 are truly making a difference. This legislation,
8 Intro 214, affirms what we all know and believe:
9 Housing is not a luxury but a fundamental right. It
10 is a right that is guaranteed by our democracy. So,
11 thanks to all of the protection in 214, right to
12 counsel. We will truly decrease the number of
13 evictions, stabilize our families, reduce the burden
14 on our shelters and truly maintain long-term and
15 affordable housing for thousands of tenants and
16 families. Over the next five years as this
17 legislation is implemented, we as at the City Council
18 will work very closely with the Administration to
19 make sure that all New Yorkers have the legal
20 protections including those residents who live in the
21 New York City Housing Authority, and I represent 12
22 NYCHA developments, and they, too, are struggling to
23 remain in their homes, and many are facing the
24 everyday threat of evictions. More and more New
25 Yorkers will grow to understand and truly be

2 empowered by their rights as tenants. Through this
3 legislation we're providing tenants with attorneys,
4 thereby leveling the playing field in eviction
5 proceedings. Knowledge is power, but having an
6 attorney is even more powerful, and we truly believe
7 in all of the vision that this bill always set out
8 for. This bill will make critical investments in
9 many New York families, and when we invest in
10 families, we invest in our children, and when we
11 invest in our children, we give them hope for
12 tomorrow and a future. I have been so blessed and
13 honored to work on this important legislation
14 alongside our colleague Council Member Mark Levine,
15 whose dedication and determination and commitment has
16 been a huge factor in getting us here today. Thank
17 you so much, Mark, for everything, for all those
18 working hand-in-hand to make sure that this bill was
19 passed. I also want to thank our Mayor Bill de
20 Blasio for his leadership and support, our Council
21 Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito for your commitment to
22 fairness and equity for so many tenants. Thank you
23 so much, and also holding firm and making sure that
24 the final bill included tenants of NYCHA because that
25 was a goal for all of us. I also want to thank and

2 recognize the Chair of Public Housing Ritchie Torres;
3 Chair of Courts and Legal Services Rory Lancman;
4 Chair of Housing and Buildings, Jumaane Williams for
5 all of their support, all of our co-sponsors. I also
6 want to thank Council Member Rosie Mendez for her
7 long-time support of this issue. I also want to
8 thank the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus as well as
9 the Progressive Caucus, and the staff that has been
10 acknowledge Matt Gewolb, Laura Popa, Rob Newman,
11 Casey Addison, Sarah Gastelum, Kelly Taylor, Aya
12 (sp?) Keith, and my own Chief of Staff Dana Wax. To
13 all of the advocates who have supported this
14 legislation over the years, thank you. It would be
15 impossible to name everyone, but certainly I, too,
16 want to join Council Member Levine in recognizing
17 Andy Shara and the New York Law School. I also want
18 to thank my foundation and my solid rock in the
19 Bronx. They never ever let me forget how important
20 Intro 214 is. Many of them live and work and raise
21 their families in our district, and this would not be
22 possible without the hard work of Costa Bronx. To
23 Sonya Blankley, Shayla Garcia, Randy Dillard, Fitzroy
24 Christian, Carmen Vega Rivera, Mildred James, Emanuel
25 Youssef and the entire family of CASA, the Right to

2 Counsel Coalition, Housing Court Answers, Legal Aid
3 Society, Bronx Defenders, Central Labor Council,
4 DC37, Urban Justice Center, Legal Services, MIMIC,
5 God at Riverside and all of our civil legal service
6 providers. I also want to recognize Catholic
7 Charities, and our biggest champions the seniors who
8 we never forgot about, Live On New York and AARP. I
9 also want to thank our Public Advocate Tish James for
10 being with us from the beginning, our Comptroller
11 Scott Stringer for his support. We want to thank all
12 of the borough presidents. I especially want to
13 recognize my Bronx Borough President Rubin Diaz, Jr.
14 Thank you all for your tireless commitment and your
15 partnership that has really allowed us to make
16 history to make this city a model for so many other
17 municipalities throughout this country. Thank you
18 from the bottom of my heart on behalf of my district
19 for helping to make a difference, and invest in
20 tenants and families in the entire city of New York.
21 Yes we can and yes we did. Thank God. Thank you,
22 Madam Speaker.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So, I, too, I'd
24 like to remind people—I say it enough but I proudly
25 represent the most public housing in this country

2 between my district of East Harlem and the South
3 Bronx. I have by far the most public housing in the
4 City of New York. So, that is always going to be a
5 priority for me. We in Speaker time. So, you know,
6 what? Let's whoop and holler. Go free. [cheers/
7 applause] It's a big deal. So, definitely some
8 emotion is warranted, and that ends communication
9 from the Speaker.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [off mic] I say
11 CASA, you say Power. CASA.

12 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [in unison] Power.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: That's it.

14 [background comments] Discussion on [coughs]-
15 discussion of general orders. Seeing none, Report of
16 Special Committees.

17 CLERK: None.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of
19 Standing Committees.

20 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Aging,
21 Intro 1519-A, SNAP Benefits.

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

24

25

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Courts
3 and Legal Services, Intro 214-B Legal Services for
4 Tenants Facing Eviction.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
6 coupled on General Orders.

7 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
8 Finance, Preconsidered Reso 1589, Organization
9 Funding.

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

12 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 706 and Reso
13 1590, Tax Exemption.

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

16 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
17 Health, Preconsidered Intro 1668, Prohibition of
18 Circus Performances with Wild Animals.

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

21 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land
22 Use [pause]

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Whatever.
24 Whatever, I mean—Report on the Committee of Land Use.
25 I have said Coupled on General Orders.

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2 CLERK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Report
3 of the Committee on Land Use LU 682 and Reso 1591 to
4 LU 689 and Reso 1594, Zoning Amendments.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
6 [shushing for quiet]

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

9 CLERK: LU 690 and Reso 1594 to LU 704
10 and Reso 1597 HPD Applications.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
12 General Orders.

13 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 707 and Reso
14 1598 and LU 708 and Reso 1599, School Facilities.

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

17 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
18 Oversight and Investigations, Intro 1136-A Report on
19 Civil Actions Against Correction officers.

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

22 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Parks
23 and Recreation, Intro 407-A, Parks Department Capital
24 Projects.

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
3 coupled on General Orders.

4 CLERK: Intro 1411-A Pedestrian Access to
5 Park Facilities.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
7 coupled on General Orders.

8 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Public
9 Safety Intro 1000-B, Report on Seized Property.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
11 coupled on General Orders.

12 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules,
13 Privileges and Elections, M-521 and Reso 1600
14 approving the appointment of Thomas Sorrentino, Taxi
15 and Limousine Commission.

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

18 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
19 Transportation, Intro 671-A Pedestrian Countdown
20 Displays.

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

23 CLERK: Intro 1234-A, Mini Meter
24 Installation.

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
3 coupled on General Orders.

4 CLERK: Intro 1646-A, Gratuity for For-
5 Hire Vehicles

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
7 coupled on General Orders.

8 CLERK: On the General Order Calendar LU
9 651 and Reso 1601 to LU 655 and Reso 1604, Zoning
10 Amendments.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
12 General Orders.

13 CLERK: Resolution Appointing Various
14 Persons Commissioner of Deeds.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
16 General Orders, and I ask for a roll call on all
17 General Order Items.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
19 [shushing for quiet] May we have quiet in the
20 Chambers?

21 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet. Keep it down.

22 CLERK: Barron.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

24 Thank you.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Permission to
3 explain my vote.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I
6 wanted to commend the prime sponsor Rosie Mendez, and
7 I'm proud to say that I am prime co-sponsor on 1668.
8 I think that it's important that as we look at what
9 has been a tradition in the Black community
10 particularly for nearly 25 years be given an
11 opportunity to continue. When they first started the
12 Soul Circus in the mid-1980s I was the Executive
13 Assistant to the Community Superintendent Carlos
14 Edwards, and he realized the significance of that
15 circus being black owned and having blacks in
16 significant positions. And he worked with the circus
17 to have every school in the district be able to send
18 a group of children to participate in witnessing
19 that. So, I'm so pleased that the sponsor has had an
20 opportunity to be able to extend that bill, and we're
21 going to look to see if, in fact, there might be
22 other extensions that are granted. So, I'm pleased
23 to be a co-prime sponsor on that. I'm voting aye on
24 all the others with the exception of LU I think it's
25 690, 691 and 692, which is the Bedford Arms Project,

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2 and my concern is that this project while it has 80,
3 60 and 40% AMI apartments available, it has 50% of
4 apartments at market rate, and this is in a community
5 where the average neighborhood median income is only
6 \$40,000. So it's, in fact, not addressing the issue
7 of those families that are close to homelessness, and
8 so for that reason I'm abstaining on those. Thank
9 you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you and now
11 for a vote Council Member Gentile.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you, Madam
13 Public Advocate. With my congratulations to all my
14 colleagues I vote aye on all.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 CLERK: Borelli.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all
18 except 2014-B, 1646 and 1136.

19 CLERK: Cabrera.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I vote aye and
21 I'd like to congratulate all of the sponsors of the
22 bill, and I'd like to welcome CASA in the house.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

24 CLERK: Chin.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Permission to
3 explain my vote.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes. [coughs]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. First,
6 I want to congratulate all my colleagues on passing
7 this important legislation, and I especially want to
8 and I'm going to be proud to vote for Intro 214-B.
9 Access to legal representation should be a
10 fundamental principle of a more fair and equitable
11 city. Residents who are facing eviction and already
12 struggling with financial or language barrier should
13 not have to go housing court on their own. As the
14 first municipality in the country to guarantee
15 universal access to counsel for tenants with eviction
16 cases our city is getting a strong-is setting a
17 strong example for how our nation can lead the fight
18 against displacement and homelessness. I wanted to
19 thank our Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council
20 Member Levine and Council Member Gibson for their
21 commitment and their leadership on this and, of
22 course, by sister Rosie Mendez who's been pushing for
23 universal access for legal services for many years
24 and especially for our seniors, and I also want to
25 thank the Coalition and all the advocates who worked

2 so hard on this, because we are protecting our most
3 vulnerable residents in private housing and in public
4 housing. I'm proudly voting aye on all. Thank you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

6 CLERK: Cohen.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: [laughs] I vote
8 aye.

9 CLERK: Constantinides.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I vote
11 aye.

12 CLERK: Cornegy.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I vote aye.

14 CLERK: Crowley.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye.

16 CLERK: Cumbo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission to
18 explain my vote.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I just want to
21 congratulate all of my colleagues, and I particularly
22 want to congratulate Council Members Gibson and
23 Levine on this landmark legislation—

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

25 [shushing for quiet]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: --that is
3 certainly going to change the atmosphere and the
4 dynamic of so many people. As the council member in
5 the heart of gentrification all throughout my
6 district, this is going to make the difference
7 between someone staying in their home or being
8 evicted, and then sent off to our homeless shelters.
9 So, I applaud you, I support you. This is incredible
10 landmark legislation. This is going to make the
11 difference for so many families throughout New York
12 City, and I know that it is going to be the type of
13 legislation that is going to be a model throughout
14 not only New York City, but also the nation and the
15 world where gentrification has reared its ugly head.
16 So, I congratulate my colleagues, and I congratulate
17 all who have passed legislation. Today.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

19 CLERK: Deutsch.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Dromm.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

23 CLERK: Espinal.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Espinal.

25 Espinal.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye.

3 CLERK: Thank you.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Sorry.

5 CLERK: Eugene.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

7 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: With

9 congratulations to all my colleagues I vote aye.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 CLERK: Garodnick.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: I vote aye.

13 CLERK: Gibson.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: With my warmest

15 congratulations to all of my colleague passing

16 legislation today, I proudly vote on all. Thanks.

17 CLERK: Greenfield.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I vote aye

19 with the exception of Preconsidered Reso 1589 on

20 which I abstain, and I congratulate all my

21 colleagues.

22 CLERK: [pause] Grodenchik.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Madam Public

24 Advocate, permission to explain my vote.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Actually, I'm
3 not doing much explaining. I'm doing more
4 introducing. Next to me today is Molika Christopher.
5 I wish she were my constituent because in the few
6 minutes that we spent together I know that she is an
7 outstanding young woman.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
9 [shushing for quiet]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: She's a
11 graduate of the York Early College Academy this year
12 and 60 credits--

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
14 Wow.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: --and is also
16 a graduate of York College CUNY. She is now working
17 with the Food Bank for New York City, but is
18 inspiring me because she told me that she will be
19 spending a year working with Americorps and working
20 with Reading Partners. So, I'm very excited to have
21 her with me today. I want to congratulate especially
22 on the legislation--landmark legislation my colleagues
23 Mark Levine and Vanessa Gibson. I've often wondered
24 why we don't provide counsel for more people, and now
25 we will be doing it for all. And lastly, I know that

2 today is the 48th Anniversary when mankind first set
3 foot on the moon. We were able to do that a long time
4 ago, and I hope that Americans can be inspired to
5 work together once again for the common good. With
6 that, I vote aye on all.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you and
8 congratulations to that young leader. Thank you for
9 your leadership.

10 CLERK: Johnson.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I want to
12 congratulate Mark Levine and Vanessa Gibson and I
13 vote aye on all.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Kallos.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Congratulations
17 Mark and Vanessa, and tenants throughout our city I
18 vote aye on all.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

20 CLERK: Koo.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye on all.

22 CLERK: Koslowitz.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye on
24 all and congratulate all my colleagues on their
25 legislation.

2 CLERK: Lancman.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Yes.

4 CLERK: Levin.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [off mic] Aye on
6 all and congratulations to all my colleagues.

7 CLERK: Levine.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Madam Public
9 Advocate, may I have permission to thank the Public
10 Advocate for her eloquent and unwavering support of
11 Intro 214?

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs] Yes.

13 CLERK: Great. I would also like to vote
14 aye on all. Thank you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 [laughs]

17 CLERK: Maisel.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER [off mic] Yes.

19 CLERK: Mealy.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Menchaca.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye on all.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

24 CLERK: Mendez.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Permission to
3 explain my vote.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, Council
5 Member.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I want to
7 congratulate Council Members Levine and -

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
9 [shushing for quiet]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: --and--and Gibson
11 for getting over the finish line what I could not do
12 for so many years. I started my career 30 years ago
13 as a tenant organizer. Eventually I became a legal
14 services lawyer. I am so proud to be part of this
15 body in voting on this bill today. Thank you for
16 making this happen in my las t and final year in the
17 City Council, and congratulations to everybody in the
18 balcony and everyone in New York City. It's a big
19 win-win. Thank you. I vote aye on all.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And it's your
21 legacy.

22 CLERK: Miller.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Permission to
24 explain.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: So, I'd-I'd
3 really like to congratulate my colleagues on this
4 landmark legislation, really, really important
5 legislation. It is thoughtful and it is necessary,
6 but there is a caveat involved here and that caveat
7 that one-third in the city including my district of
8 one and two-family homeowners have not been excluded
9 that many of these homeowners their mortgages are
10 predicated on these rentals, and there has been an
11 inordinate problem that my office has been involved
12 in along with that. So, we are hoping that during
13 this five-year phasing implementation period that
14 there is an opportunity for us to address the issues
15 of those homeowners, which often will find themselves
16 in these positions continuing to proliferate the
17 foreclosure crisis that many suffer from over there.
18 So, this is thoughtful, and it is absolutely
19 necessary, and I'm totally looking to engage that,
20 and I did reach out to Council Member Levine, and
21 we've had preliminary discussions on that as well as
22 the Speaker. And I'm looking forward to working with
23 them on this, but I would have to abstain on 214-B,
24 and 1668, and aye on all the rest. Thank you.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

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2 CLERK: Perkins.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Congratulations
4 to all and I vote aye on all.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

6 CLERK: Reynoso.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye on
8 all.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

10 CLERK: Richards.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Congratulations
12 to all my colleagues. I vote aye.[coughs]

13 CLERK: Rodriguez.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

15 CLERK: Rose.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Permission to
17 explain my vote?

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: First I'd like to
20 welcome to the Chamber two in-two of my interns Emma
21 Franco and Adair Martinez. They are interns
22 extraordinaire, and-

23 MALE SPEAKER: Of the CFE.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Excuse me.

25

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I'm sorry.
3 Continue Council Member.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay, and I wanted
5 to welcome them here, and acknowledge their presence.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
7 [shushing for quiet]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I want to
9 congratulate Council Members Levin and Levine and
10 Gibson for 214-A or B for the historic legislation
11 that this is, and for putting tenants on equal
12 footing, but I also would like to ditto the remarks
13 that Council Member Miller made about private
14 homeowners who also need to have some protections.
15 And in my Land Use item today, I want to thank Land
16 Use staff Raju Mann, Amy Levitan and John Douglas and
17 my Chief of Staff Christine Johnson for the work that
18 they did on this Land Use item. It is a waterfront
19 project that will bring 371 units of affordable and
20 market rate housing, commercial and retail
21 development and a public walkway along our waterfront
22 when waterfront access is so important. Throughout
23 this process I've worked with the applicants to
24 modify this project to ensure that it is in alignment
25 with my priorities, which are environmentally

2 responsible, affordable and aesthetically pleasing,
3 and preserving access to the waterfront for all
4 Staten Islanders. So, I want to thank all of the
5 Land Use staff for helping us move this along, and I
6 vote aye on all.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 CLERK: Rosenthal.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Permission to
10 explain my vote.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I just want to
13 congratulate all my colleagues on their bills. It
14 was just some amazing legislation here. I'm sorry I
15 wasn't able to sign onto the Speaker's bill that was
16 passed by the

17 CLERK: Committee on Oversight and
18 Investigation. I still say it's a great bill. I
19 really applaud you for this legislation. I, of
20 course, want to congratulate my colleagues Levine and
21 Gibson for making my job in the District Office a lot
22 easier now that we can give people a lawyer. It's
23 going to make all of the difference, and with that I
24 vote aye on all.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

2 CLERK: Salamanca.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Torres.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Permission to
7 briefly explain my vote. I just want to thank the
8 Speaker, Council Member Levine and Council Member
9 Gibson for fighting for a genuinely inclusive version
10 of right to counsel. NYCHA residents are no less
11 entitled to legal representation and so I'm proud of
12 the end product. With that said, I vote aye

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

14 CLERK: Treyger.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to
16 explain my vote.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you and I
19 just also want to just add to the enormous thanks and
20 gratitude to Council Members Mark Levine and Council
21 Member Vanessa Gibson for their signature piece of
22 legislation. I want to thank Council Member Rosie
23 Mendez for being a trailblazer on this issues, and as
24 just we—we just heard from my colleague, I want to
25 thank the Speaker and Council Member Ritchie Torres

2 as well for making sure that NYCHA residents are a
3 part of this legislation. It-it-it would be the
4 height of hypocrisy for the city to make sure that
5 all tenants will be protected and leave out some of
6 the most vulnerable in our NYCHA buildings. They,
7 too, matter. They matter a lot. So, I want to thank
8 all my colleagues, thank the-the staff as well. This
9 is-this is a big deal, and I-with that I vote aye on
10 all. Thank you.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

12 CLERK: Ulrich.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on all
14 except Intros 214-B and 1646-A.

15 CLERK: Vacca.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye on all.

17 CLERK: Vallone.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

19 CLERK: [pause] Matteo.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: No on 214, 1646,
21 1136 and aye on the rest.

22 CLERK: Van Bramer.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

24 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Aye.

3 [pause]

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I urge my
5 colleagues to sign onto 1670, a bill requiring major
6 construction sites to post a regularly updated sign
7 indicating the number of workers present. It would
8 help us monitor and deter the overmanning of
9 construction sites and prevent accidents that happen
10 because sites are congested and inadequate planning
11 has led to poor workflow. Second, in the immediate
12 aftermath of an accident, the signage would help
13 ensure that every worker is accounted for, and this
14 information would provide an invaluable data point.
15 I urge all of colleagues to sign onto this bill.
16 [pause] Okay, thank you. All items on today's
17 General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote in 46
18 in the affirmative, 0 negative and 0 abstentions with
19 the exception of Land Use 690 and Resolution 1595,
20 which was adopted by a vote of 45 in the affirmative,
21 1 negative and 1—and 0 abstentions, and Intro 214-B,
22 which was adopted by a vote of 42 in the affirmative,
23 3 negative and 1 abstention, and Intro 1646-A, which
24 was adopted by a vote of 43 in the affirmative, 3
25 negative and 0 abstentions, and Intro 1136-A, which

2 was adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative, 2
3 negative and 0 abstentions, and Resolution 1589,
4 which was adopted by a vote of 45 in the affirmative,
5 0 negative and 1 abstention, and Intro 1668, which
6 was adopted by a vote of 45 in the affirmative, 0
7 negative and 1 abstention, and the Revised Land Use
8 Call-Up vote is now 46 in the affirmative, 0 in the
9 negative and no abstentions. Introduction and
10 Reading of bills. [pause]

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills
12 referred to the appropriate committees.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: There's no
14 resolutions this eve--this afternoon, and so our first
15 member for general discussion is Council Member
16 Laurie Cumbo. [pause]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. I want
18 to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and all of my
19 colleagues today--

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
21 [shushing for quiet]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: --for recognizing
23 the memory and the legacy of the late great James
24 Davis. He continues to be a memory that we all can
25 draw inspiration from. I want to applaud his brother

2 Jeffrey Davis for not only keeping his brother's
3 memory alive, but keeping the work alive. I think
4 all of us throughout the 35th Council District and
5 the City of New York know the *Love Yourself Stop the*
6 *Violence* motto, and that has transitioned all
7 throughout the city of New York where people
8 understand that gun violence and the epidemic of gun
9 violence is a mental disorder, and it's something
10 that we as a community have the power to overcome,
11 and we have the power to change that dynamic. So, I
12 want to thank the Davis Family for coming here today,
13 for keeping their brother's memory alive, and for us—
14 allowing us in the Council to know just how blessed
15 we are—

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
17 [shushing for quiet]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: --to be here. I
19 also want to bring attention to gender based
20 violence. All New Yorkers regardless of gender
21 should feel safe in their homes and communities.
22 Violence against women has become too commonplace in
23 the city of New York. We cannot continue to proclaim
24 that we are the safest city in the United States
25 until gender based violence ends. In the past week,

2 news headlines have been dominated by women who are
3 victims of gun violence or sexual assault. Police
4 arrested two individuals for the kidnapping and
5 prostitution of two 16-year-old girls who were held
6 captive in a Crown Heights apartment. One was
7 allegedly forced to have sex with three men while the
8 other victim was forced to have sex with at least 18
9 men. On July 12th there were four rape attempts
10 within four hours in Crown Heights. Each woman
11 fought off the suspect and were uninjured. The
12 alleged suspect has not been apprehended by the
13 police. On July 12th two mothers shot and killed at
14 Stuyvesant Garden Houses in Bedford-Stuyvesant. China
15 Battle, 21 was shot once in the head and Sequanda
16 Staley, 29 [bell] was found with three bullet wounds
17 in the back. Police believe that they were—they were
18 not intended targets. On July 18th, Maureen Mozack,
19 70, was found dead and tied up with an electrical
20 cord in her Canarsie home. In 19—on July 19th—

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
22 Council Member—

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: --an unidentified
24 woman, 40, was stabbed multiple times in Clinton
25

2 Hill. As a city, we must remain vigilant and
3 continue to dedicate the resources--

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
5 Council Member.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: --police presence
7 funding and year-round programming to combat all-

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
9 Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: --all forms of
11 violence.

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

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
16 Council Member Miller. Okay. [laughs] Donovan
17 Richards says that you should have more minutes
18 because of your condition.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: [off mic] [laughs]
20 Thank you for that.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
22 Miller.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: [off mic]

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: No? You pass?
25 Okay. Council Member Gibson.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madam
3 Public Advocate. I just quickly want to expand on
4 the Speaker's remarks earlier in recognizing many of
5 our wonderful interns who are here with the Food Bank
6 of NYC, and specifically the incredible measure that
7 this Council provided in the adopted budget of
8 additional funds for our school campus pantry, and
9 making sure that we can increase opportunities for
10 many school students in our public schools to access
11 healthy food. I am so proud to have been shadowed
12 today by one of our interns Lydell Bland, who is a
13 recent graduate of East Bronx Academy for the future
14 in the Bronx, and now he is going to BMCC him and his
15 twin brother, and he is going to be studying business
16 and economics. And just talking to him this
17 afternoon, I also had a chance to meet him at that
18 Annual Gala hosted by the Food Bank—

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
20 [shushing for quiet]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: --and I am
22 telling him, his twin as well as all of our other
23 interns they are the future leaders, and we are so
24 grateful that if anyone could lead the conversation
25 in taking a huge bite out of hunger and being an

2 advocate and being the champions of change it is our
3 young people. And so, we pride ourselves on the work
4 we do not just talking about it, but investing money
5 where our commitment is, and I'm so proud and I look
6 forward to seeing Lydell in the future. I told him
7 that as a resident of the Bronx he always has an
8 opportunity to work with us or any of my other
9 colleagues in the Bronx, but I'm looking forward to
10 great things from each and every one of you. Good
11 luck in college. Good luck in school, and thank you
12 for all you're doing and good luck to you this
13 summer. Thank you, Madam Public Advocate.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. We're
15 very proud of you and thank you for your leadership,
16 and our last speaker is Council Member Margaret Chin.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Madam
18 Public Advocate. Good afternoon. I wanted to point
19 my colleagues' attention to Reso 1586, which urges
20 the State Legislature to increase penalties for
21 individuals who assault or rob food delivery workers.
22 Being a delivery worker continues to be one of the
23 more dangerous jobs that an individual can have. In
24 2015, delivery workers suffered 885 fatalities
25 nationwide, the greatest number of fatal injuries

2 among civilian occupations. 236 of these incidents
3 happened in New York, which ranks fourth among the
4 states with the highest fatal work injuries Food
5 delivery workers are particularly vulnerable to
6 assault and robbery to the job's requirement to carry
7 cash. Furthermore, a large number of food delivery
8 workers are from immigrant communities, and have
9 limited English proficiency, creating a language
10 barrier between the victims and law enforcement. By
11 increasing the penalty for individuals who attack
12 delivery workers, we can send a clear message to
13 those who prey upon these vulnerable workers. This
14 is unacceptable and we will no longer stand for this.
15 I want to thank Casey Addison for working on this
16 resolution, and I urge my colleagues to sign on.
17 Thank you.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you and now
19 the Speaker to close.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright, it is
21 3:35 and we're out. Thank you all-

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
23 Thank you.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --and we are
25 adjourned.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And may James

3 Davis rest in peace. [gavel]

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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 July 28, 2017